

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LII.]

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BIRTHS.

On the 17th December, 1900, at Ningpo, the wife of F. J. HOWELL, I. M. Customs, of a daughter.

On the 19th November, at "Earlham," St. Margarets, the wife of MOWBRAY HAWES, of Perak, Malay States, of a daughter.

At Greencroft, Kowloon, on Friday, the 21st December, the wife of JOHN THOMAS MARTIN WHEELER, of a son.

On the 23rd December, at the Government Civil Hospital, the wife of Mr. CARL GEORG, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 14th November, at St. Paul's Church, Manningham, Bradford, by the Rev. E. Richards, M.A., Vicar, assisted by the Rev. E. Davis, M.A., Vicar of St. Mark's, Low Moor, ALFRED BRUCKSHAW CURJEL, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, to MABEL ERNESTINE, youngest daughter of the late J. C. GROVEHAM, of Bradford, and Mrs. GROVEHAM, of Grassington, Yorks.

On the 19th December, 1900, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., GEORGE THOMAS MONEY EDKINS, only son of the late G. T. EDKINS, of Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, to WINIFRED, second daughter of the late Joseph Henry GASKIN, of Lon'on.

On the 19th December, 1900, at Valetta, Malta, ERNEST B. HOSKIN, of the Eastern Telegraph Service, to MABEL G. STEIL, late of Shanghai.

On Christmas morning, 1900, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. E. F. Cobbold, M.A., GEORGE ALBERT WATKINS, of Hongkong, to ELLEN FANNIE, eldest daughter of the late William Henry SIMMONDS, of Denmark Hill, London.

DEATHS.

On the 13th November, 1900, at her brother's home in Dernyter, N. Y., ELLA F. SWINNEY, M.D., member of the S. D. B. Mission, West Gate, Shanghai.

On the 28th November, at Surat, suddenly, of heart failure, BURJORJEE BUTTONJEE KEER, formerly of Hongkong.

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

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LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English mail of the 23rd November arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Chusan*, on the 23rd December (30 days); the Canadian mail of the 5th December arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of China*, on the 27th December (22 days); the German mail of the 14th November arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Preussen*, on the 27th December (43 days); and the American mail of the 28th November arrived, per O. & O. steamer *Doric*, on the 27th December.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A London telegram states that the Germans have seized and looted the Peking Club completely.

Preparations are being made, according to Chinese official reports, at Wuchang and Siangyang, in Hupeh, to receive the Empress Dowager.

It is announced from Paris that M. Pichon, French Minister at Peking, will be appointed Resident-General in Tunis at the conclusion of the peace negotiations.

The Viceroy of India's Cup at Calcutta on the 25th instant ended in a victory for the Maharajah of Jodpore's *Up-Guards*, Mr. Hyde's *Tubal Cain* being second, and Koer Sahib's (of Patiala) *Cherry*, the favourite, third.

Mr. W. Holland has proceeded to Ichang to resume his post of British Consul at that port, and Mr. E. C. Wilton, who acted for him during his absence on furlough, goes on to Chungking to relieve Mr. M. F. A. Fraser.

Mr. James' Watts, whose ride from Tientsin to Taku was the means of saving Tientsin from the Chinese, has been rewarded by the German Emperor. He has received the Rettungs-Medaille, which is a high civil decoration given for the saving of life.

The N.-C. *Daily News* is informed that the Russian proclamation which it published recently as to the imposition of land-tax at Newchwang is an entire misconception arising from the ignorance of a Korean interpreter employed by the Russian authorities.

H.E. the Governor informs us that he has telegraphed to London asking on behalf of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council (as representing the community) whether the Duke and Duchess of York will visit Hongkong on their way to or from Australia. No reply has yet been received.

A Japanese contemporary says:—Japan has refused to join the Treaty Powers in prohibiting the import into China of firearms and war materials. In view of the large export of sulphuric acid from Japan, this decision is hailed with the utmost satisfaction by the manufacturers and exporters of the acid.

According to a London telegram of the 21st instant, Chinese issues on the Stock Exchange rose $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ points in consequence of the agreement between the Powers.

A late resident in Tientsin who has returned to England has, it is stated, applied to the Foreign Office for information as to where he should lodge his claim for £700, the value of his property lost during the siege. Lord Salisbury has replied that he is not able to say where the claim should be presented, but the question of indemnities will be one of the subjects for negotiation between the Powers in China.

The specie reserve in the Bank of Japan has dwindled from 100 millions to 65 millions. There is still an excess of imports over exports, amounting to 50 millions, that has to be settled. This is a serious fact. Two plans are suggested for relief, one being the disposal of all silver in the possession of the government, and the other the sale on the London market of 20 millions' worth of the 4 per cent. bonds possessed by the Bank.

The Japanese *Mainichi* says that Dr. Morrison, the Peking correspondent of the *Times*, and the correspondent of the *Morning Post*, are having trouble with the German military authorities. The correspondents ascribed the death of Count York to the defeat the Germans received at the hands of the Chinese troops. The Germans are highly incensed and are trying to courtmartial the two men, for which purpose a proposal was brought forward at the Allies' military council.

The *Asahi* reports activity on the part of certain Americans who are seeking in Seoul to obtain concessions for American firms. The *modus operandi* of those interested is to secure loans from Americans for the Court and the Government on mortgage of some of the valuable mines, or failing that, on the Customs revenues. Mr. MacLeavy Brown stands in the way of course. Finding it difficult to dislodge him, they are now, it is reported, trying to induce Mr. Brown to leave. The Japanese paper's Seoul correspondent concludes that the loan question looks serious.

A recent issue of the *Gazette* of the Government of India gives the following additional appointments to the Staff of the China Expeditionary Force: Captain G. W. Johnson, 3rd Punjab Cavalry, to be Provost Marshal, Tientsin. Captain R. B. Low, 9th Bengal Cavalry, to be Headquarters Camp Commandant in addition to his duties as Provost Marshal. Captain A. W. S. Wingate, 1st Chinese Regiment, to be Special Service Officer for Intelligence Work, with the status of D. A. A. G. Captain MacC. R. E. Ray, 7th Bengal Infantry, Field Intelligence Officer, to be D. A. A. G., Lines of Communication, Tientsin. Captain G. F. S. Menzies, 1st Chinese Regiment, to be D. A. Q. M. G., Lines of Communication, Tientsin. Lieutenant B. F. R. Holbrooke, 26th Bombay Infantry, to be Field Treasure Chest Officer, Peking. Brevet-Major T. E. Scott, D. S. O., 1st Sikh Infantry, to be Road Commandant, Lines of Communication. Lieutenant E. C. Creagh, 4th Punjab Infantry, Adjutant, Native Base Depot, to be Post Staff Officer, 2nd class, Weihaiwei, in addition to his other duties. Colonel L. H. D. Campbell, Base Commandant in charge of Line of Communications, to be General of Communications. Lieutenant-Colonel J. C. Swann, 1st Bombay Infantry, to be Adjutant and Quartermaster General, Lines of Communications.

AFFAIRS AT CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

(Daily Press, 25th December.)

Christmas-tide in the closing year of the Nineteenth Century bids fair to be almost if not quite the most peaceful the age has witnessed. The sullen rumblings of approaching storm with which the year opened have quieted down and apparently passed away, and the world can keep its festival with a fair prospect that it is about to enter on an untroubled sea. So in the ancient times while the Halcyon built its nest nature to aid the task left off the elemental strife, and the year after its gales and uprisings closed in peace. But tranquil as were the Halcyon days, the sailor who, trusting too blindly and presumptuously on the good gifts of the gods, neglected the seaman's precautions, found no favour from OLYMPUS. For him the Halcyon brought no respite, and well might he deem himself lucky if with his unkempt bark he succeeded with whole skin in reaching the haven. Fortunately for us the promise of the time is better than was held out to the ancient mariner. The past year has been one of anxieties and turmoil. When it opened the sky was overcast, and no one could tell whence the threatened storm might come nor how soon it might involve the world in its circle. It was not that any particular nation was troubled; the feeling was universal. Britain was engaged in a war of which she had underrated the importance, and the birds whose delight it is to pounce on the wounded quarry were hovering about. France was smarting from the unpleasant revelations a military case had disclosed, and was momentarily reckless. The United States were not happy, for influences inimical to internal order and foreign peace were being dragged to the front. A wave of unsuspected ruffianism had passed through Europe; the Empress of Austria had fallen its first victim, but the Prince of Wales had been attacked, the King of Italy had been murdered, and several other plots which involved the lives of nearly every sovereign in Europe were only discovered in time to prevent an equally fatal ending. During the course of the year broke forth the pent-up elements of savagery which had been assiduously nursed by the intruding woman who had seized the reins of power in China, and who, like revolutionists in all ages, saw her only hope lay in fire and slaughter. Fortunately the Dowager Tszé Si with all her wild schemes was too ignorant to have studied the important question of the strength of the various nations, or even the forces they had momentarily at call in China. She had in vernacular reckoned without her host, and had to fly with the clothes she stood in before the forces the offended Powers were able to put in the field. But the most regrettable part of the bad business was the effect it had on the various Powers, who, instead of working towards a common end, permitted their common jealousies to come to the front. It would be too soon to affirm that these have come to an end, but it is satisfactory that the events of the last few weeks have materially improved the position and permitted some breathing space to be devoted to a better understanding of the position. A working agreement between Germany and Great Britain has materially aided this, and there is at last some hope that with the close of the year the tension has been materially lessened. It is not for us to search too intimately into the parts taken by the leading Powers, but it is a matter of congratulation that it has come about at the close of the year. Germany has in more ways than one indicated that her position was a friendly

one, and seeing this there has been a marked diminution of those forces which tend towards disruption. Both in Great Britain and in the United States recent elections have shown that the people are not only united but know their minds, so that there is left little room for the agitator to make use of his sinister influence. On the whole then there are signs that the worst of the tempest is over, and all are beginning to enquire whether by a little yielding on the part of each some permanent ground of union may be found. At all events there is abroad less of the spirit of mere unfriendliness, and opportunities which might have been taken for showing an unfriendly feeling have been passed by or cleverly evaded.

THE REPRESSION OF BRITISH ENERGY.

(Daily Press, 24th December.)

It is not long since we referred to the general repression of British trade and energy which has been conspicuous in our relations with China during the last ten years. It was not so much the actual loss, though in some directions Great Britain had actually gone backward, as in the proportionate decay when compared with other countries; and the fact that it was in staples, which but a few years ago we held our own by a kind of prescription. That the fault was to be attributed to mistakes on the part of our Government, irrespective of party, we pointed out, as well as the very different manner in which other countries, more especially Germany and the United States, treated their nationals. On the one hand it was a policy of holding back; the merchant was an individual to be feared and restrained, and the duty of the Consul, and more especially that elaborate organisation of the Supreme Court, was in the first instance avowedly directed to the suppression of the obnoxious trader. On the other, the representative of his government was before every other consideration to remember that he was sent to China to foster German or American interests, and that his position as a repressor of crime was not to be looked upon as antagonistic to this object. The consequence of these different interpretations of their duty is that the British Consular Official sees everything at first as a judge views the business of his court. It does not, in fact, concern him in the slightest degree, except so far as it may, or until it comes before him judicially. All the preliminaries are things with which he has nothing to do; they are matters for the plaintiff and defendant, of which he knows nothing and cares nothing, till they come before him in his judicial capacity. That he has any executive capacity, beyond the mere carrying out of the decrees of his court, probably never enters his head, except when one or two instances of the effects on the careers of his fellows, following unpleasantly on some attempt at independent action, intrude themselves on his mind. On the other side nothing is so much dreaded by an American or German official as a complaint from a prominent national that any remissness in pushing the interests of his subjects had been exhibited. There are few British subjects in business in China who have not had cause to substantiate this very great distinction in the methods of the Governments concerned. It is always soothing to one's self-love to have companions in misery, and it is instructive to find no less an authority than Professor JOHN PERRY, F.R.S., the President of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, making in his address to the Society almost identical charges. It is unfortunately a fact that compared with

the United States, or even so small a country as Switzerland, the position of England in the electrical world is hopelessly in the rear. That this is evident even to the engineers of England is shown in the disheartening fact that, when after many years knowledge of the practical failure of steam traction in the underground railways of London, it became a matter of actual necessity to exchange steam for electric motors, it is to American engineers, and American machine shops that the Directors have had to apply. Professor PERRY makes as much as he can out of the conservative instincts of British engineers, who will in their calculations make use of old and unpractical methods of ascertaining results; with the consequence that their neighbours, having adopted more ready and equally correct methods, are able to run out their requirements more closely, and introduce safe economies which throw the advantage on their side. That there is some truth in this no one who has been watching the course of mechanical development within the last few years will deny. But English engineers have never been deficient in the power of adopting the readiest means to an end, and there must be some reason why in this instance of electricity they should in these calculations have failed to keep abreast of their competitors. It was but a comparatively few years ago since the engineers of England were at the head of electric engineering, and most of the practical applications of the new force were led by British engineers or inventors; it is hardly to be expected that the nature of the men could have entirely changed within a fraction of a man's working age. Professor PERRY in his strictures on the engineer acknowledges this. Men who had commenced practical work, and who not many years ago were at the top of the tree, find themselves to-day left hopelessly in the rear. It is the hope of reward that sweetens labours, and when a man for his existence has to devote all his time to mere routine, and understands that the alternative is to starve, he finds but little leisure to go into theories, the results of which bring him neither honour nor profit. When the electric question some ten years ago began to assume importance, and British capitalists and British engineers were prepared to undertake large schemes for lighting and traction, it may be remembered that Mr. GLADSTONE's Government took the matter in hand with the object of repressing this new danger to the comfort of the citizen. The result was a bill brought into Parliament, not only throwing cold water on the whole, but imposing conditions so impracticable that for nearly eight years not a single scheme was introduced, and it was not till these conditions were altered and relaxed that any one practical scheme was undertaken. Meanwhile it is notorious that in other countries, whose Governments had more enlightened views as to their duties, electrical engineering was growing from being the nursling of the philosopher into the sturdy child of the practical manufacturer. It was only last session of Parliament that a scheme for running an electric railway from Manchester to Liverpool was thrown out by an obstructive Parliament; and the reason will serve to explain why our merchants and our engineers are losing the leading position which a few years ago they occupied. The Engineers of the scheme announced their intention of making the trains traverse the line at the rate of 210 miles an hour. GEORGE STEVENSON's cow got in the way but it was not the "coo" but the train that got the worst of the collision; a wise House decided that to travel two hundred miles an hour

was dangerous. Possibly Parliament forgot that it was itself being carried round the sun at a speed many times greater, and that the question was not one of speed at all but merely of avoiding external interruptions. The whole story is an indication of the evils of that grandmotherly rule which has settled like a blanket over the energies of the land.

NEWS AND THE CENSORSHIP.

(Daily Press, 28th December.)

With the advent of Christmas the already scanty information about the progress of negotiations at Peking has become still scantier. As we learnt at the beginning of the week, the announcement of an agreement between the Powers on the disputed points has given satisfaction at home, causing a rise of a half to one and a half point in Chinese issues. It may be taken for granted, therefore, that the Allies have actually arrived at unanimity in their demands on China, and that a working compromise has been discovered which every nation among them has consented to support. A Japanese native paper, the *Chugai Shogyo*, whose information has been good during the present crisis in China, reports on the authority of its Shanghai correspondent that the Powers have approved on the twelve articles of the proposals carried in the Ministers' conference at Peking and some of them have already ordered their Ministers to proceed with the peace negotiations, but the authority allotted to them, it is added, is not very full, and in every instance they have been instructed to wait for advice from their home Governments. The *Chugai Shogyo* continues by stating that the powers are now appointing their respective peace envoys, and that formal peace negotiations are expected to begin at the end of January next. A Shanghai telegram to the *Mainichi*, dated the 17th instant, is to the effect that the foreign Ministers were then discussing the demands on China, consisting of a hundred clauses, and that it was reported that military operations will be begun against China if she refuses to comply with the ultimatum, which will be forwarded as soon as the conference of the powers is concluded. Other Japanese papers, moreover, add the report that LI HUNG-CHANG's personal followers have returned to Shanghai, "on account of the determined attitude of the Powers, who threaten to continue the military operations in case China evinces the least disposition to ask for an amendment of the peace conditions."

These reports from leading Japanese vernacular papers support one another, but up to the present we have no confirmation, from non-Japanese sources, of the threat to prosecute the war in default of a ready compliance, on the part of China, with the demands of the Powers. There is no doubt a sufficient reason for our lack of news in the censorship exercised over European press correspondents, whereas unless the Japanese reports are inventions there is not the same stoppage of news in Japan. It will be noted that the story of the proposed court-martial of the *Times* and *Morning Post* correspondents for "transmitting a false telegram regarding the death of Count YORK" reaches us also by way of Japan. We have no means of gauging the accuracy of the news from Japan, thanks to official suppression. Whether this action of the military authorities is altogether wise now, is a matter for doubt. During the progress of the war, there was justification for keeping the details back. But what is the advantage of system which fails to maintain a general secrecy while fostering the spread

of unfounded rumours, most people will fail, we think, to see. The affair of the Kalgan expedition is a case in point. Whatever was the actual case of Count YORK VON WARTEBURG's death, whether he was killed in battle, was accidentally suffocated, or committed suicide, the authorities have by their attitude led to the most unfavourable version being accepted. Needless to say that general belief is yielded to a story which doubtless goes far beyond the facts. A press censorship is always difficult to carry out. An ineffective and partial one simply stultifies the censor.

OVERCROWDING AND EXPANSION.

(Daily Press, 22nd December.)

The state of affairs described by the Inspection Committee, consisting of Messrs. E. OSBORNE and J. McKIE, at the time of their visit to Wanchai on the 4th instant, was called by Major BROWN at Thursday's meeting of the Sanitary Board "painful," and no one, we imagine, will quarrel with this use of the epithet. The overcrowding of the City and the increase of rents have long been subjects of discussion in Hongkong, but the question, as is only natural, has been chiefly regarded from the point of view of Europeans of small means. On them no doubt the inconveniences and hardships of the conditions now prevailing fall with especial force, and it is from them that complaints have mainly come. The poorer Chinese, however, have not been less affected by the changes which have come about in the price of living, but with their national disregard for what foreigners esteem comforts they have left their state to be discovered by the Inspectors. By this we do not mean that they have not asked, and obtained, rises in wages on account of the dearth of food; but they have allowed the squalor and congestion of their home surroundings to grow worse and worse. Messrs. OSBORNE and McKIE remark that the upward tendency of rents continues, and until relief is provided there is little hope of any real or lasting improvement in the sanitary condition of our slums. The instances which they give of prevailing conditions are indeed unpleasant to read. The conclusion at which they arrive, put in their own words, is:—"The whole town east and west, go where you will, appears to be more overcrowded every day, and high rents, congested streets, polluted drains filth and plague, point with unmistakable warning to the great need that exists for more space, more room for expansion." This opinion will be endorsed—is already held—by every sensible man in the Colony. But expansion takes time. Hongkong has been talking of expansion for a considerable period now, but we see no steps being taken to force the question forward. The Government alone can act in the matter, but it rests with others to make this subject of overcrowding what it ought to be, the subject of the day. During the years 1894, 1896, 1898—1900, we have had to combat epidemics of plague which carried off an average of between one and two thousand persons per annum. It may be remembered that a little over a year ago the question came up at the Legislative Council whether overcrowding had much to do with plague mortality, and it then appeared from statistics that the most overcrowded districts were not those in which the plague deaths reached the highest average. We remarked then that for the purposes of the enquiry comparisons between the different districts were

likely to prove misleading and that, with the population moving freely about the city, the exposure to infection was scattered over the whole. No one can deny that overcrowding leads to insanitary conditions; and that there is an intimate connection between plague and dirt, as indeed there is between most other diseases and dirt, there seems no room for doubt. In Nullah Lane, one of the streets mentioned in Messrs. OSBORNE's and McKIE's report, five plague cases occurred this year; in another, Wing Fung Street, twelve. An examination of Dr. CLARK's report on this year's epidemic will reveal how many cases occurred in the immediate neighbourhood of the squalid and ill-ventilated places visited by the Inspection Committee on the 4th instant. Amid a great diversity of opinion on matters connected with bubonic plague, there is at least an agreement of opinion that abundance of fresh air is one of the best preventives. It is always in the slums that that grip of the epidemic is so difficult to shake off, in whatever part of the world it takes hold. Now it is no doubt Utopian to imagine that we can ever make our poor Chinese population live in really well-ventilated buildings. But we can in time secure a tolerable state of affairs. Not, however, within our present area. The population has outgrown that; by how much the approaching Census will show accurately. The remedy lies in expansion; but in expanding we cannot drive the workmen to live at a greater distance from their work without giving them facilities for getting to and from it quickly. In other words, as the suburbs extend some means of transit from them to the centre of the city must accompany the extension. No other sanitary improvements can do more than tinker with the question. We trust that the Sanitary Board will not let this all-important subject rest. There is far more good work to be done here than in the discussion of some points which occupy much of the Board's time. Moreover, many of the minor sanitary evils arise directly from congestion, and it is only by solving the problem of expansion that they can really be cured.

MANCHURIA V. THE YANGTZE VALLEY.

(Daily Press, 27th December.)

The letter which our correspondent, writing from Shanghai, sends us on affairs in the Newchwang neighbourhood, though it reports outrages by Boxers and disbanded soldiers on the country people, and occasionally on foreigners, on the whole tells of a better condition of affairs than could have been hoped for some weeks back. The work of pacification has not, it seems, proceeded on the lines on which Russia commenced her work on the Amur River. Possibly we shall never arrive at the exact truth about the treatment of the Chinese inhabitants on the north bank of that river; but, though the full story as first reported from non-Russian sources appeared incredible, it can hardly be doubted that the Cossacks at least were guilty of atrocities shameful to the troops of civilised nations. The march of the Russian columns through Manchuria was stated on good authority to be marked by similar conduct. It looks now as if the first severity—to use a very mild term—were intended to teach the lesson and the subsequent change of policy were meant to conciliate the country folk, who can no longer be blind to Russia's power. If this be so, the time of the change has been well chosen, for, now that the wreck of the Boxers and the Imperial forces are reduced to preying on their own compatriots, the troops of

the Tsar are enabled to stand forth as the champions of the peaceable natives. In fact, Russian diplomacy has shown its usual perspicacity. In the whole matter of Manchuria Russia has been able to profit by the action or inaction of others. It was the blow struck by Japan at China which first gave her the chance of securing a foothold at Port Arthur, after Germany had seized Kiaochow. It was British official want of purpose and ignorance of the facts which made that foothold permanent and exclusive. British officialdom has assisted again, in the past half-year, in the extension of Russian control over a great part of Southern Manchuria. There seems no reason why Russia should now take less than she can get. Our correspondent asks: "Is the importance of the province (Manchuria) sufficient to justify us in taking steps to keep the trade open to all comers?" This might be put another way. Are we to expect Russia, it might be asked, to keep the pledges which she has given about the trade of China? One of the objects of the Anglo-German Agreement concerned the maintenance of the integrity of China. If our diplomatists are about to assent to the quibble that Manchuria is not part of China, are they also going to agree to the shutting out of our traders from the province? Every individual out here has been considering these questions, as our correspondent says that he should; but we very much doubt whether the taxpayer at home is giving even a moment's thought to them. If he does, he probably soothes his feelings with the idea that there is the open trade of the Yangtze Valley, not troubling to reflect that this was always open to us and that of South Manchurian trade he is proposing to surrender his country's share in return for nothing at all. When the history of England's connection with the Chinese Empire comes to be written, the future historian will be able to point out one phrase which did incalculable harm to the interests of England in China, namely "our sphere of influence in the Yangtze Valley."

THE CRISIS: TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENTS.]

SHANGHAI, 21st December, 9.19 p.m.

Sheng declares that the peace negotiations are making no progress.

A doubtful rumour at Shanghai states that a French force is preparing to make a descent on Hankow from the north.

The *Universal Gazette* states that forty thousand Mahomedans have raised a rebellion in Kansu against the Manchus.

SHANGHAI, 26th December, 7.40 p.m.

Chinese officials report that preparations are being made at Wuchang and Siangyang, in Hupeh, to receive the Empress Dowager.

The news of the Kansu rebellion is confirmed, but the Viceroy Wei Kang-tao remains at Lanchau with a large force of Hunan troops.

SHANGHAI, 27th December, 10.14 p.m.

A Hsianfu telegram announces that the Emperor has selected General Ma Yu-kan to command the advanced bodyguard when he (the Emperor) returns to Peking.

According to a Japanese paper, the Chilean Government has decided to reduce its navy, as a result of the recent conclusion of an arbitration treaty among the South American republics. It is reported that a cruiser will be sold to Ecuador, another warship to Peru, and two torpedo-boat destroyers to Japan.

RUSSIAN OPERATIONS IN MANCHURIA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Shanghai, 18th December.

THE RUSSIAN OCCUPATION.

News despondent in tone is reaching us here from Newchwang. Outrages on Chinese, and when opportunity offers on foreigners as well, seem to be the order of the day in the country lying round that port. Boxers and soldiers alike unite in robbing and murdering all and any they meet in their day's march. The Russian forces have captured the town of Liao Yang without encountering any or much resistance. It is reported that the Russian general met with some mishap in the course of these operations, but of no serious nature, and is now in peaceable possession of the town. But news like this is, after all, but the counterpart of what might and does come from a hundred other places and districts in North China. The point in connection with Manchuria that is to be noted is the tacit acceptance by England of Russian occupation. On the other hand, there is the fact of the non-interference of Russia with Shanghai and the Yangtze Valley generally. So that what has been rejected by both countries under the name of Spheres of Possession has been accepted under that of Spheres of Pacification. How long that pacification will last, whether it will be of such indefinite extent as to merge the latter into the former, depend on the countless threads that go to make up the web of diplomacy. But to the ordinary observer the fact is patent, from the date of the withdrawal of the British Fleet from Port Arthur down to the present moment when Russian troops and Russian troops alone are operating round and about Newchwang, that the British Government have determined to recognize that it is a place gone beyond their control; and that, no matter under what name the nominal possessor may appear, the actual influence and power over Manchuria will remain in Russian hands; or at least until such time as that dream of Sir Robert Hart's is realized, and China's millions sweep Russian and English, Slav and Saxon, before them on their western march.

THE QUESTIONS AT ISSUE.

It is pleasant to be able to record that the most trustworthy accounts from Manchuria describe the Russian operations as being conducted on the lines of civilized warfare and that such scenes as accompanied the Russian conquest of the country round Khiva are neither authorized nor enacted in Manchuria. Supposing then the pacification carried out, restoration of order will bring renewal of trade, and with that renewal the certainty that British merchants will, as before, make strenuous efforts to obtain their share of it. Must it and does it of necessity follow that they will not succeed in doing this? If not, is the importance of the province sufficient to justify us in taking steps to keep the trade open to all comers? Can any steps which England can take keep it from falling under the denomination of Russia? These are questions which not only every individual out here must consider and answer, but which every individual tax-payer at home must have plainly put before him and be called upon to decide.

MANCHURIA AND THE YANGTZE.

The situation may not inaptly be compared to the Fashoda incident. French trade is as welcome up the Nile as English, but if there is any pacification to be done we showed pretty plainly that it was we, not France, who would undertake it. So in Manchuria, who shall say that in avoiding the possibility of a similar situation our Government have not acted wisely; or that the Russians in accepting the fact that the maintenance of order on the Yangtze pertains to the functions of Great Britain rather than to Russian, have not done more to preserve the concord of the Powers than perhaps the more thoughtless amongst us would give either credit for?

The Government of Burma proposes starting shortly an extensive rubber plantation on King's Island, the principal island of the Mergui Archipelago.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

LOCAL MOVEMENTS.

The British hospital ship *Carthage* returned from Calcutta on the 21st inst., and the German cruiser *Kaiserin Augusta* arrived from Tsingtao.

The German transport *Frankfurt* arrived on the 23rd inst. from Tsingtao.

The U.S. transport *Sumner* left on the 22nd inst. for Taku.

The British transport *Ujina* arrived from Shanghai on the 23rd inst.

On the 24th inst. H.M.S. *Britomart* arrived from Canton, H.M.S. *Barfleur* from Weihaiwei, and the storeship *Humber* from Weihaiwei.

The gunboat *Lizard* left for Canton.

The transport *Peking* arrived on Christmas Day from Manila.

The hospital-ship *Carthage* left on the 26th inst. for Weihaiwei, and the transport *Ujina* for Calcutta.

The Russian cruiser *Razboynik* arrived on Thursday from Nagasaki.

The U.S. monitor *Monadnock* arrived on Thursday from Manila, with the U.S. transport *Solace*.

NORTHERN NOTES.

The following items are from the *P. & T. Times* of the 8th inst.:—

The railway to Chingwantao is expected to be open about the 15th instant.

The natives in Peking are not a little astonished at the manoeuvres carried on by the foreign balloon corps.

We learn that Chang Yen-mao, who is still in Peking with Li Hung-chang, is in frequent communication with Tung and Tuan.

On dit that the Russians are really going to hand over the railway to the Germans on the 1st of the Russian New Year.

The last river trip from Tangku to Tientsin with cargo was made on Thursday, and the lighters are now being docked for the season.

Jung Lu, on reaching the Court, although he strongly condemned the policy of having supported the Boxers, urged the Court not to return to Peking while the foreign troops were there in such force.

The line to Peking may be open for limited traffic in a few days. An engine is shortly to be sent over the line to test it. Trains will probably not run with their former speed or frequency, but it will be a great thing to have the line open at all.

News is reported of a large Chinese force on the borders of southern Chihli. Some say the troops are Chang Chi-tung's, but for what purpose they appear here is unknown. Others affirm that they are Yuan Shih-kai's, commanded by himself and Gen. Ma.

Tientsin residents were startled about 4.30 on Monday morning by a loud explosion, apparently some three or four miles distant. Subsequent investigation showed that two coolies had somehow ignited a quantity of gunpowder at the East Arsenal, where the Russian camp is, and both were blown to pieces. By some it is thought to have been accidental; others think it was intentional, but if so, the effects must have been characterised by a touch of previousness.

From private Peking advices we learn the "Mahomedans to the West and North are in open revolt against the Government. The Empress Dowager and her outfit were compelled to fall back towards Taiyuanfu, so she is now between two fires; the old lady will no doubt be in Taiyuanfu in a few days. Chinese rebellion in South is spreading, and the country, as I might say the people, are dividing up in three lots, Mahomedan, Cantonese, and the Dowager's bunch. According to Chinese reports here, the Dowager Empress, if not protected by foreigners, will soon be at the mercy of the Mahomedans."

Ex-Taotai Tan Wen-huan, who was among the officials seized and condemned by the military at Paoingfu, was brought in here under a strong German guard on the 3rd inst., and marched through the Settlements. He was executed outside the North Gate of Tientsin City at 11 o'clock on the 7th, having been previously paraded before his countrymen as a condemned man. He was jauntily indifferent up to the last, and made some offers of Tls. 50,000 if

persons would get him released. Documentary proof was found in the Yamen that he had acted as paymaster to the Boxers at one time, and he is known to have taken a very active part in the proceedings generally; while in Pootungfu fresh evidence was forthcoming of his well-developed anti-foreign sentiments.

BELILIOS PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

The annual distribution of prizes in connection with the Belilios Public School for Girls, Hollywood Road, took place on Friday, 21st inst., at noon. The interior of the premises had been tastefully decorated for the occasion with flags and plants. There was a large attendance of the parents and friends of the scholars. Mrs. Lockhart was present for the purpose of distributing the prizes, and she was accompanied by her husband, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary). Mr. A. J. May, Acting Chief Master of Queen's College, performed the duties of Chairman, and he was assisted by Mrs. Bateman (the Head Mistress) and Mrs. Tutchter (Assistant Mistress). Mr. J. Dyer Ball and W. J. Tutchter were also present. To begin with, an interesting programme was gone through by the scholars. Dumb-bell and other exercises were admirably executed under the conductorship of Sergeant J. Jones, Miss Eileen Chunyut presiding at the piano. Miss Kitty Moore recited "The mouse and the cake" and Miss Irene Coleman "Ella and her umbrella." A duet on the piano—A Spanish dance by Moszkowski—was contributed by Misses King and Hunter, who acquitted themselves very well and were warmly applauded for their performance. Subsequently Mrs. Lockhart was presented with a beautiful bouquet of red and white roses and maiden-hair fern, tied with pink and white ribbon, the bouquet being handed to Mrs. Lockhart by Miss Irene Coleman.

Mr. A. J. MAY said—Mrs. Bateman, the Head Mistress, wishes me to make a few remarks for her on the working of the school. The total number on the roll for this year is 192, and the average daily attendance is 149. Of this number 101, including 40 boys, belong to the Infant Department. Mrs. Bateman returned from England and resumed her duties as Head Mistress on 5th October, Mrs. Tutchter acting as Head Mistress during her absence. The school was examined on the 18th, 19th, and 20th July by the Inspector of Schools, from whose report the following is culled:—"The Head Mistress and the Assistant Teachers are to be congratulated on the result of the examination. After three annual examinations I can confidently say that the Government has every reason to be satisfied with the school. Not only is the general tone excellent, and the behaviour of the pupils good, but a sound and thorough elementary education is also given. The school is divided into an Upper and Junior School. The Junior School, consisting of three classes, is in charge of Mrs. Tutchter, when the Head Mistress is in the Colony. At present (July) Miss K. Turner is in charge, and the infant class is being taught by Miss Olson, a temporary teacher. During the year classes I and II have been taught by Mrs. Tutchter, classes III and IV by Miss Long, and classes V and VI by Miss Turner. At present the whole time of the Head Mistress is taken up with teaching. This prevents her from exercising the general supervision which she ought to have over the rest of the school. I do not think that more than half the time of a Head Master or Mistress ought to be taken up with class teaching, and I hope that when occasion arises the services of another trained European teacher will be obtained for the school. The state of the Junior School reflects great credit on Miss Turner and Miss Olson, as they have been working throughout the year without having the benefit of continuous European supervision. Miss Olson has proved herself a competent teacher, and the efficiency of the infant class is higher than it has been for the last two years. Some of the boys appeared likely to be very troublesome at times, and I have suggested to the Head Mistress that as the school is a girls' school, un-

ruly and lazy boys ought not to be permitted to hamper the teacher in the slightest degree, but should be removed from school if they are making no progress." Mrs. Bateman trusts that this much of the Inspector of Schools' report will be sufficient to show that a good and sound work is being done in the institution. That portion of the report which mentions the necessity of another trained European teacher she heartily endorses, and states that the occasion has already arisen, and trusts that the Government will see its way to supply that necessary want without delay—a matter which she will mention in her report. The school is to be congratulated on having one of its pupils an Associate in Arts of the University of Oxford, viz., Miss Ethel Long, who is the first pupil of this school who has gained the title of A.A. Miss Long has had the whole of her education in this school. On account of excavations and building operations going on below the playground has been in an unfit condition, at least as a tennis court, for some time, and it is to be hoped that the contractor will soon remove the heap of sand, etc., and put it once more into a useful and fit condition. Physical drill has also been carried on throughout the year with what success you have already had an opportunity of judging. I will now ask Mrs. Stewart Lockhart to be kind enough to give away the prizes.

The prizes were then distributed as below:—

- ENGLISH DIVISION.—1ST CLASS.
Composition.—Nellie Olson, Girls' Own Annual.
Arithmetic.—Alice Lesbirel, Blotter.
Grammar.—Lily Song, Book.
Reading.—Lily King, Book.
Geography.—Lily Song, Scent bottle.
History.—Nellie Olson, Scent bottle.
Map Drawing.—Kitty Abraham, Book.
Distinction in all subjects.—Lily Song, Book.
- 2ND CLASS.
Composition.—Sarah Lee, Book.
Arithmetic.—Alice Vanstone, Book.
Grammar.—Sarah Lee, Pencil.
Geography.—Maggie Peterson, Ink bottle.
History.—Myra Chun Yut, Book.
Map Drawing.—Sarah Lee, Ink bottle.
Application.—Fatima Mahomed, Box.
- 3RD CLASS.
1st.—Florence Lambert, Book.
2nd.—Hannah Moore, Glove box.
3rd.—Ada Asgar, Pencil.
4th.—Louisa Silas, Blotter.
- 4TH CLASS.
1st.—Martha Peterson, Work box.
2nd.—Mary Chan, Case of Scent.
3rd.—Elia Hyndman, Book.
4th.—Ida Noma, Book.
- 5TH CLASS.
1st.—Annie Lesbirel, Paint book and Box.
2nd.—Rebecca Silas, Paint book and Box.
3rd.—Doris Chunyut, Paint book and Box.
4th.—Sophie Joseph, Pencil box.
- 6TH CLASS.
1st.—Bertha Lee, Book.
2nd.—Marian Kia and Rachel Levi, Dolls.
3rd.—Clara Goldenberg, Pencil box.
- 7TH CLASS.
1st.—Ah Soo, Case of Scent.
2nd.—Ah Kae, Pencil box.
3rd.—Dolly Pomeroy, Book.
- 8TH CLASS.
1st.—Fook Ah Soo, Case of Scent.
2nd.—Maggie Legge, Book.
3rd.—Elsie Schwarzoff, Book.
4th.—Leontine Ellis, Skipping rope.
- 9TH CLASS.
1st.—Sui Fong, Book.
2nd.—Jumal Khan, Knife.
3rd.—George Jackson, Satchel.
4th.—Frederic Silas, Paint book and box.
Needlework.—1st, Lily Song, Needle case.
2nd, Kitty Abraham, Thimble. 3rd, Fatima Alarabia, Thimble.
Chinese Embroidery.—1st, Johorah Mahomed, Work box. 2nd, Yue Wah, Work box.
Drill.—1st, Alice Lesbirel, Pair of Clubs.
2nd, Dorothy Lambert, Bracelet. 3rd, Annie Lesbirel, Doll.
Recitation.—1st, Irene Coleman, Doll. 2nd, Kitty Moore, Doll.
Attendance Certificates.—Johorah Mahomed, Fatima Alarabia, Alice Vanstone, Sarah Lee, Ada Asgar, Faa Ah Soo, Lizzie Vanstone, Marian Alarabia, Bessie Brewster, George Jackson, Nora Brewster.

CHINESE DIVISION.

STANDARD I.

Handwriting.—Leung Kau, Ink bottle.
Distinction.—Ho Su, Hung Un Yung, Li Lin, Handkerchiefs.
Good Conduct.—Lam Kit Mui, Work box.
Best Attendance.—Chau Shau Yung, Certificate.

STANDARD II.

Handwriting.—Chung Hau Wan, Pencil.
Distinction.—Ch'an Wong, Lau Tsui Tip, Ch'an In, Handkerchiefs.
Good Conduct.—Hung Chin Lan, Work box.
Best Attendance.—Wong Sai Mui, Certificate.

STANDARD III.

Handwriting.—Pang Un Yau, Pencil.
Distinction.—Ho Kam Mun, Kwok Sui Sim, Lam In Tsing, Lau Tin Yuk, Handkerchiefs.
Good Conduct.—Chu L'an, Work box.

STANDARD IV.

Handwriting.—Ch'an Mi Yung, Pin case.
Distinction.—Cheung Tim, Ip Mi Tsoi, Lok Sui Sam, Handkerchiefs.
Good Conduct.—Leung Yim, Work box.
Best Attendance.—Wong Lin Mui, Certificate.

STANDARD V.

Dictation.—Ma Lin, Mirror.
Verses.—Hung Mui, Bangle.
Good Conduct.—Pang Yung, Pencil.
Best Attendance.—Ma Sin, Certificate.

SPECIAL PRIZES.

Composition.—Cheung Tim, Hand bag.
Arithmetic.—St. I, Tsu Mi Ngo, Ink bottle;
St. II, Lo Lai Yuk, Ink bottle; St. III, Lo Kin, Scent bottle; St. IV, Lo Po Ling, Scent bottle;
St. V, Pang Yung, Scent bottle.

CHINESE NEEDLEWORK.

1st.—Pong Yung, 2nd.—Hung Sau Ying, 3rd.—Cheong Tim, 4th.—Sau Kiu, 5th.—Ho Kum Moon, 6th.—Leung Kow, Needle-cases.

The prizes having been distributed, three hearty cheers were given for Mrs. Lockhart for her services.

The Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, in responding for his wife, said—It is not my intention to trouble you with anything like a long speech. You have heard all about the school from Mr. May, and there is very little left for me to add to what he has said. However, I am very pleased to respond on behalf of my wife, and to thank you very much for the hearty manner in which you have returned thanks to her for performing what has been to her a most pleasant duty. It has given her very great pleasure to come here to-day and give away the prizes, which I am sure were very well deserved. I am sure I am echoing the sentiments of everybody present when I say we are very pleased indeed to see amongst us once more Mrs. Bateman—(applause)—and we are especially glad to see that her trip to England has done her so much good, and that she has returned here with renewed energy and vigour to carry on that educational work which she has so successfully carried on for many years in this colony. (Applause.) I think it ought also to be remembered that our thanks are also due to Mrs. Tutchter for the manner in which she discharged the duties of head-mistress during Mrs. Bateman's absence. (Applause.) I am certain from my own personal knowledge that to Mrs. Tutchter is due in a great degree the success which has attended the educational efforts of this school. (Applause.) You will all agree with the remark made by the Inspector of Schools that the work which has been carried on here displays a great measure of efficiency. In fact while I listened to the remarks made by Mr. May there seemed only two things wanting to make the school as perfect as possible. One was the behaviour of the boys, who were said to have behaved very badly. Seeing that they had such an excellent example set them by the other sex the least they could do was to follow that example. With regard to the suggestion that an additional European assistant should be appointed, I am not able to speak with authority on behalf of the Government, but I may tell you that if an application for another European assistant is forwarded to the Government it will receive every consideration, and if Mrs. Bateman is able to show, as I am sure she will, that another European assistant is necessary, I feel certain that the Government will sanction the engagement of an additional teacher. (Applause.) There was another matter re-

ferred to by Mr. May, and that was the unsatisfactory condition of the playground. I think it is very unfair to any school for its playground to be in an unsatisfactory condition. I think that is a matter which should receive immediate attention. If Mrs. Bateman will kindly talk with me on the subject afterwards, I think we shall be able to arrange to do something to put the playground in a proper state of repair. (Hear, hear.) I have not heard any mention made of the needlework done by the scholars, but my wife has asked me specially to state that she was very much struck with the excellence of the work done in that branch. I am no authority on this matter myself, but my wife is, and I am certain that if she says it is excellent it is excellent. There is one other matter upon which I think the school is to be specially congratulated, and that is the success which has attended the efforts of Miss Ethel Long. On behalf of all here present I am sure I may take the liberty of offering to her our sincere congratulations on her having passed successfully an examination which entitles her to the letters "A. A." after her name. I trust she will only be the first in a long list of successful candidates in the Oxford Local examinations. (Applause.) I am sure the prize-winners must all have worked very hard. In fact the long list shows it must have been very difficult to decide who ought to have prizes and who ought not. The prize-winners have been rewarded for their efforts, but I trust that those who have not received prizes but who perhaps had worked quite as hard will not be discouraged, and that next year they will be among the prize-winners. I trust you will all enjoy your holiday and return to the school with a determination to make the best of the advantages given you. I have nothing more to say except that your holidays commence to-day and will be continued until Monday, January 7th. (Applause.) I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and a really good time. (Applause.)

The proceedings closed with the singing of a verse of the National Anthem.

Mrs. Bateman desires to offer her sincere thanks to the following ladies and gentlemen for their kind contributions to the Prize Fund:—

Mesdames Murray Bain, Cooke, and Crawford, Sir Thomas Jackson, Hon. W. Goodman, Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Messrs. A. W. Brewin, B. Byramjee, Belilios & Co., Banker & Co., J. H. Cox, Victor Deacon, Dodwell & Co., C. J. Gaupp & Co., Capt. Goddard, Gibb, Livingstone & Co., Holliday, Wise & Co., Jardine, Matheson & Co., C. T. Kew, Kelly & Walsh, David Sassoon, Sons & Co., H. N. Mody, Fung Wa Chun, Chan Pat, Ho Fook, G. J. W. King, R. Shewan, Li Po Sung, Man Yu Tong, See Woo, Sun Shing, Lock Hing, Tak Cheong, Wong Wing-chin, Leung Yau, Choy Cheng-li, Ng Chit-mi, Ahang, Anonyms, and Wei Laiwhan.

THE CHARGE AGAINST A COMPANY DIRECTOR.

Mr. Hugh Fletcher Carmichael, a director in the firm of Carmichael and Company, Limited, of this colony, was brought up before Mr. Hazeland at the Magistracy on the 22nd inst. and the following indictment was preferred against him:—(1) That the said Hugh Fletcher Carmichael, then being a director of Carmichael and Company, Limited, a public company carrying on business in this colony, did, with intent to defraud, make a false entry in the books of Carmichael and Co., Ltd., to the effect that he, the said Hugh Fletcher Carmichael, was the owner of the ten shares in Carmichael and Company, Limited, numbered 1020/1029; (2) that he, the said Hugh Fletcher Carmichael, then being a director in Carmichael and Company, Limited, a public company carrying on business in this colony, did, with intent to defraud, concur in the making of a false entry in the books of Carmichael and Company, Limited, to the effect that he, the said Hugh Fletcher Carmichael, was the owner of the ten shares in Carmichael and Company, Limited, numbered 1020/1029, contrary to Section 68 of Ordinance No. 7 of 1865.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, (instructed by Mr. Mounsey), barrister, appeared for the prosecution

and Mr. M. W. Slade, instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) conducted the defence.

A plea of not guilty was tendered.

Mr. Pollock proceeded to state the case for the prosecution, and said—In this case, your Worship, you will see, from the charges which are mentioned in the information filed by Mr. Hurley, that the defendant is brought up upon two charges, under Section 68 of Ordinance 7 of 1865. The circumstances of the case are mainly set out in the information filed by Mr. Hurley, and your Worship will see that they are briefly as follows: There was formerly a man called John Harper who held ten shares in Carmichael and Company, Ltd. John Harper was employed as an engineer on board the s.s. *Catterthun*, and on or about the 8th of August, 1895, the steamer went down off the coast of Australia. Most of the Europeans on board were drowned, amongst them this man John Harper. Subsequent to the death of John Harper, the defendant, Hugh Fletcher Carmichael, having no interest at all in the shares, caused entry to be made in the register of shares of Carmichael and Company, Ltd., that he was the owner of these ten shares belonging to John Harper. It will be shown in evidence that Mr. Carmichael was at that time a director of Carmichael and Company, Ltd., and as such director he ordered Mr. W. H. Potts to make an entry in the books to the effect that he, Carmichael, was entitled to these ten shares.

His Worship—When was that entry made?

Mr. Pollock—That will be shown when the books are produced, your Worship. Subsequent to the death of John Harper, his brother, Archibald Harper, arrived in this colony, and, as representing his brother's estate, he sold these shares to a Mr. Ritchie at the price of \$10 a share.

His Worship—Was this Archibald Harper the administrator of John Harper's estate?

Mr. Pollock—I cannot tell your Worship whether he was actually the administrator or not, but at all events he sold to Mr. Ritchie the ten shares belonging to the deceased man, and Mr. Ritchie agreed to buy these ten shares at the price of \$10 per share. He paid over \$100 for these ten shares to Mr. Archibald Harper, and got a receipt for that sum. Shortly after, Mr. Ritchie applied to have the shares registered in the books of Carmichael and Company, as owner of these ten shares, and found out, on applying, that these ten shares were registered in the name of Hugh Fletcher Carmichael, the defendant. Mr. Ritchie purchased these shares on the 22nd of December, 1898, and was constantly pressing, after that date, that these shares should be registered in his name. Finally on the 27th of October, 1899, a certificate was issued by Carmichael and Company, Ltd., in favour of Mr. Ritchie, and your Worship may think it a material circumstance in this case that between December, 1898, and October, 1899, the time when Mr. Ritchie was pressing that these shares should be put into his name, the defendant displayed some anxiety to buy these shares from Mr. Ritchie at the price of \$11 per share. He would thus, of course have given Mr. Ritchie a profit of one dollar per share on the transaction. However, Mr. Ritchie was unwilling to do that, and finally the certificate for the shares were issued in the name of Mr. Ritchie, on the 27th of October, 1899. The position of the defendant in this matter appears to be this: He had, without any right, title, or authority, caused ten shares belonging to the deceased man John Harper to be transferred into his name. That was done at a time when the defendant was a director of the company, and the order was given to Mr. Potts, the secretary of the company. I submit, your Worship, the defendant had no right or title or authority to cause these shares to be put into his own name, and that it was done with an intent to defraud. I also submit, your worship, as a fair inference, that an attempt to defraud does exist, and that it was extremely suspicious that the defendant should have been so anxious to buy those shares from Mr. Ritchie. It shows that the defendant realised he must have done something wrong—something he ought not to have done; and I think I shall be able to show your Worship, when the facts of the case have been fully laid before you, that there was an intent to defraud. I will now, your Worship, call Mr. Wilson, who

has been subpoenaed to the fetch books of Carmichael and Company.

His Worship—These books will have to be produced in the witness box.

Mr. Slade—We object to Mr. Hurley seeing anything more than the outside of these books. We most strenuously object.

William Webb Wilson said he was an assistant in Carmichael and Company, Limited, and had been so since 1899. He was getting \$200 a month, a bigger salary than he got to begin with.

Mr. Slade said his friend's object in asking these questions would be easily seen by his Worship. It was simply with the object of making things as unpleasant for Mr. Carmichael as possible.

His Worship said he could not see any reason for asking such questions.

Continuing, the witness said he had been receiving this salary for the past five months. He was a director in the Company and had been so since the time of Mr. R. E. Humphreys, since April this year. He had with him the case containing the transfer deeds relating to Carmichael and Company, Limited. He produced the transfer deed, undated, from John Harper to H. Carmichael.

His Worship—You don't object to Mr. Hurley seeing that.

Mr. Slade—I don't object to Mr. Hurley looking at it now, but he is not to see anything else.

The witness proceeding said the date of the stamp was 16/10/97. The previous transfer in the book was between John Andrew and H. Carmichael, and it was dated 25/6/96. The things interleaved between the transfers were cancelled scrips. There was a cancelled scrip between shares 1020 to 1029, dated 23rd April, 1896. He did not know how this scrip was dated 1896. He knew nothing about this whatever nor whose writing "John Harper" was. He had got the Register of Transfers of shares in Carmichael and Company. The entry of the transfer from John Harper to Carmichael was there. Witness had no Register of Powers of Attorney and with regard to the cancelled scrips they were pasted in the same book as the transfers.

Cross-examined by Mr. Slade, witness said he succeeded a Mr. Ritchie in the firm. Mr. Ritchie was the man who obtained the transfer. Witness undertook Mr. Ritchie's position, and Mr. Ritchie left shortly after witness joined the firm.

W. Hutton Potts was the next witness. He said he was an accountant and had been in the colony for some years. He was formerly secretary of Carmichael and Company, and the first transfer he made was in February 1894. The last entry of his was on 27th October, 1899. The next entry after that was 10th April, 1900. He ceased to be secretary after the last annual general meeting. He only closed the accounts of 1899 and handed over the books to the meeting about March. The last entry he made was from H. Carmichael to A. Ritchie. There was an entry in his handwriting stating that "Scrip No. 48 lost in *Catterthun*, new scrip issued by order of the Board," dated 23/4/96. This was written by direction of the Board, comprising Mr. Carmichael and Mr. R. E. Humphreys. He did not remember which of them in particular. He expected it was decided at the meeting. So far as he was personally concerned, he did not know whether the scrip was lost or not lost. In October 1897 there was an entry by his Chinese clerk. He (witness) would not have made the entry unless he had seen what purported to be a transfer. He might have been directed by the Board, but so far as he remembered, he had a transfer. Looking at the transfer dated 16/10/97 he did not know the writing John Harper. This signature purported to be witnessed by H. Carmichael. He did not know any other Carmichael than defendant. In the body of the document were the words "ten shares." This looked like defendant's writing. Witness identified further signatures of Carmichael and other writings. All the time witness was secretary the defendant was a director of the company. On 16th October, 1897, he was a director. In witness's day there was no Register of Powers of Attorney kept. These were entered in the index book. The red lines on exhibit B (a cancelled scrip) were made by him. The lines

were intended as cancelling lines. He was the man who always did that and his practice was to put three or four black or red lines across the signature. The minute book was regularly kept while he was secretary, and supposing an order was issued by the Board and not by an individual it would appear in the minute book. He did not think he would make an entry in the books on his own responsibility. He would require a transfer or the order of the Board.

Cross-examined by Mr. Slade, witness said the ordinary duties of secretary of a company included the entering of transfers of shares in the books of the company. He was secretary of various companies and he kept the share registers of the companies. When a purchaser of shares sent in a completed transfer it was his duty, as secretary of the company, to register it without further orders, and his practice would not vary though the man was an absolute stranger. He had seen the transfer of Harper and Carmichael. He had made the entry on receipt of the transfer. Looking at the different transfers in the book it seemed to be Carmichael's habit to witness the signatures of purchasers and vendors. The entry had Mr. Carmichael's signature as a witness to that of Mr. Crawford. He succeeded Mr. Hurley as secretary of the company.

Mr. Slade—Was he dismissed for general incompetence?

Mr. Pollock—I submit this is irrelevant. The only question before us is whether the defendant has committed a crime.

Witness—I don't know whether he was dismissed. There was a bit of a row.

Mr. Pollock—I would suggest that it would shorten the inquiry if we were not to go into irrelevancies. It does not matter whether Mr. Hurley has acted with the greatest animus or whether he has acted with the highest motives of a citizen.

Mr. Slade—It matters a good deal when you consider Mr. Hurley's statement.

Witness—I suppose he was dismissed, as I was engaged. I know there was a row between him and Carmichael.

Mr. Slade—It might shorten the case if I submit that this case has broken down on Mr. Potts' evidence.

Mr. Pollock said he had most important evidence to call yet.

His Worship decided that the case should go on.

Mr. Slade said that as far as the entry in the books was concerned and the responsibility for it, Mr. Pollock's case was finished.

Thos. Charles Craine said:—“I am employed in the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co. I was a passenger on board the *Catterthun* of the Eastern and Australian Steamship Co., Ltd., which left Sydney on the 7th August, 1895. The ship was wrecked on the Seal Rocks off the coast of Australia at 2.30 a.m. on the 8th August. There were only four Europeans saved—the second officer, a passenger named Dr. Coldman, the Torres Straits pilot, and himself.

Mr. J. W. C. Bonnar was next called. He was in the office of the agents of the steamer *Catterthun*, but as he only came to Hongkong about nine months ago he could not speak to the time when she was lost.

At this stage Mr. Pollock asked permission to add two more counts to the charge. The third count would read the same as the first except that the word “member” would be substituted for the word director. The fourth count would be the same as the second count with the exception of a similar alteration mentioned.

His Worship—I don't know what a member may be in a body corporate. Do you mean a shareholder?

Mr. Pollock—A shareholder.

His Worship—Have you any objection, Mr. Slade?

Mr. Slade—I don't object. It does not alter the case in the least.

Mr. Pollock—My friend said he sent in this transfer as an ordinary shareholder would do.

Mr. Slade—As a man who wished to become a shareholder might do.

Mr. Pollock—I would ask your Worship's permission to recall Mr. Potts to show that Mr. Carmichael was a shareholder at the date of the transfer.

Mr. Potts said that before this transaction took place Mr. Carmichael had 500 shares in the company. He had approximately the same number at the date of the transaction.

Mr. A. Ritchie, carrying on business at 29, Des Vœux Road, as a ship-chandler and general store-keeper, said he was employed by Messrs. Carmichael and Company, Limited, for nine years. He left their employment about twelve months ago. His duties were to run the harbour for orders from the ships. He remembered the time when the *Catterthun* was lost, because he had friends on board. He knew a Mr. Harper who sold ten shares in Carmichael and Company to him. He handed Mr. Harper \$100 for the shares and got a receipt from him. Mr. Harper did not give him a certificate of transfer, simply a receipt. He went to Mr. Potts a few days after he bought the shares. Mr. Carmichael, whom he also saw a few days afterwards, told him (witness) that he wanted the shares. Witness said:—“I have bought ten shares from Mr. Harper; will you have them transferred to my name?” Mr. Carmichael replied, “I will see about it.” A few days after this Mr. Carmichael came to witness and said, “The ten shares, you had better let me have them.” Witness said “No.” At this time he was in the employment of Messrs. Carmichael and Company. Mr. Carmichael then said, “I will give you a few days to think over it.” He then came to witness, about a day after and asked, “How much will you take for the shares?” Witness's answer was “I do not want to sell them.” Mr. Carmichael then said “I will give you \$1 more for each share.” Witness said “I will not sell them.” Defendant went away, but came back to witness a few days after and said “Are you going to sell these shares to me, because I have the largest number of shares in the Company, and I am entitled to them?” Witness replied “No, I will keep them myself.” There was no more said after that. He then went to Mr. Potts and he did not see Mr. Carmichael on the matter again. Eventually, he got a certificate of transfer produced from Messrs. Carmichael & Company, Limited, dated 27th October, 1899. He got the scrip about two days after he left the company. Mr. Carmichael dismissed witness because he was dissatisfied with him and he said he had another man coming from Australia to take over his job. If witness had a job in view he was told not to refuse it. When witness left he got a certificate of character from Mr. Carmichael. This certificate stated that witness had given every satisfaction and was leaving of his own accord to better himself.

Cross-examined by Mr. Slade, witness said he knew Mr. A. Harper as a customer of Carmichael and Company. He learned immediately afterwards that these shares were in Carmichael's name, and he went to him and asked him to transfer them to him saying that he had bought them from Mr. Harper. Carmichael said he would see whether they were Harper's shares. He did not deny at the time that they were Harper's shares. He afterwards said he was entitled to the shares.

Question—Have you talked the matter over with Mr. Hurley?

Answer—I have not said anything to Mr. Hurley, except when I had to transfer the shares.

Q.—Mr. Hurley has a good deal to do with Ritchie and Company?

A.—Not to my knowledge.

Q.—You have had a good deal to do with Mr. Hurley recently, one way or another?

A.—No. I have had no dealings with Mr. Hurley.

Q.—I do not ask if you had dealings. Have you had anything to do with him?

A.—I have had no dealings.

Q.—That is not an answer. I ask you if you have had anything to do with him.

A.—No.

Q.—You know that, at the beginning of this month, there was a resolution proposed to wind up Carmichael and Company, and voluntarily?

A.—Yes, I do.

Q.—Did you attend the meeting?

A.—No. I did not know there was a meeting.

Q.—You did not know there was a meeting?

A.—Mr. Hurley came to me and said there was a meeting; was I going to attend?

Q.—And you gave him your proxy?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Was that proxy to vote against the winding up of the company?

A.—I did not know.

Q.—No, no. Were you one of the people who opposed the winding up of the company?

A.—Yes.

Q.—Did you attend the meeting?

A.—No.

Q.—Did Mr. Hurley propound any scheme to you as to what he proposed to be done instead of winding up this company?

A.—He said he would like to go over the books and see that everything was carried out in a right way.

Q.—You also know that Mr. Carmichael won't have Mr. Hurley near his place?

A.—I know that Mr. Carmichael and Mr. Hurley are not friends.

Q.—That they are the worst of friends?

A.—I don't know; I know that they are not good friends.

Q.—What reason did Mr. Hurley give for opposing the resolution?

A.—He said he would like to see the books.

Q.—What did he want to do with the company?

A.—I do not know.

Q.—Yes, you do. You talked over the scheme with him?

A.—He said he would like to go over the books. I don't remember any more.

Q.—You say that Hurley gave you no other reason for opposing the winding up, except that he wanted to go over the books?

A.—That is what he said to me. I don't remember him saying anything else. I am very forgetful.

Q.—Come now, what reason did he give?

A.—To find everything was correct. I can't remember anything more.

At this stage it was thought advisable to adjourn formally till Thursday, when the defendant appeared in court and the case was again adjourned till 3rd January.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE FLEET.

It is one of the many traditions of the British Navy that at Christmas time the order of things, as far as regards the lower deck, is materially changed. Relaxation takes the place of starchy stiffness: order, viewed in an every-daylight by the strictest disciplinarian as paramount, may, and often does, become disorder—even revelry, downright revelry, is permitted, without even a murmur from the quarter deck. Christmas day in the Service means to every man from the Admiral down to the boy, a complete freedom from official restraint, a sort of go-as-you-please time when the spirit of Good-will and Peace to all men prevails both fore and aft. It is the only day in the year when the ship's company are allowed to smoke on the lower deck, and it is the only time when the mess deck is transformed into a veritable bazaar of edibles. Each mess vies with the other in keeping festive the joyous occasion, and no pains are spared in the decorations, the cost of which is borne by the men collectively. Again, Christmas is the only time of the year when the boy takes the man's place on a British man-o'-war, and the man takes the boy's place. The change of duty is accepted as quite in the order of things, and the petty officer sweeps the deck with his broom, or picks up his swab and cleans down with just the same ease and contentment as he was wont to do on the training ship, or before he obtained his rating. The first-class petty officers gather at the pumps and carry water to the galleys or pump “grog water” for the men and boys who loll about by the side of them, watching the operations with evident delight. The drummer boys take up the sergeants' duties on that day, and carry the stripes with as much dignity as the officer of the watch paces the after deck, for their commands having as much force, and for the most part receiving as much attention and respect, as if they had been given by the sergeants themselves. These traditions, and many others of a like character, date back to the time of Nelson, and are observed in almost every detail on board Her Majesty's ships both at home and abroad. In Hongkong this Christmastide they were carried out with more than usual éclat as will be seen from the following reports of our representatives who visited them.

THE "ASTRAEA."

Standing on the gangway of H.M.S. *Astræa* on Christmas day was petty officer S. Moss, who is stated by the "man on the deck" to be the oldest hand in the ship. As we saw him just after his Christmas dinner, he was carrying out his duties with great delight and seemed to be quite at home in directing the visitors to the lower deck, and keeping his gangway clear of the sampans as they disembarked their passengers. On being conducted to the mess deck quite a brilliant array of fernery and bunting came into view. Reaching the whole width of the deck were festoons of evergreens, here and there relieved with colored chains and tastefully arranged floral wreaths. To view the scene from the fore side it seemed as if one hand had planned the whole of the decorations, so neat and precise in every detail were they laid out. Round the end of the mess tables were suitable devices, patriotic emblems, and words of cheer, while outspread across the beams were appropriate texts indicative of the season. Precisely at twelve o'clock the dinners were spread out on the already fruit-laden tables, and roast beef, roast geese, turkey, mutton, vegetables and plum pudding "steamed aloud," while the band playing "The Roast Beef of Old England" led the procession of officers from the after deck. The Commander and his following tasted the beef and pudding at every mess as they passed by, and returned aft amid the cheers of the whole ship's company. During the afternoon a variety concert was held forward, when Seaman Duff played the big-drum and Seaman Jones the kettle-drum, the accordion accompaniment being given by Seaman Douglas. A long programme was gone through upon a roughly improvised stage erected amidships, the various items of which were loudly encored. Some exceptionally good talent was displayed, especially the comical quartet, consisting of E. R. Artificer Brown, Privates Field and Winterford, and Stoker Carter. Field attired as a dairy-farm girl kept the company in roars of laughter, while Winterford proved a daring coquette and sustained his Service reputation as a "born actor." An item in the afternoon's amusements which should not be missed was the antics of the ship's goat which was presented to the Commander by Prince George of Greece. The animal frisked and bantered round the deck, and seemed to take as much interest in the sports as the men themselves.

On Christmas Eve the ward room invited the Captain and officers to a spread, and the greatest of cordiality prevailed. Covers were laid for eighteen, and the post prandial proceedings included a song by Sir Douglas Brownrigg, entitled, "But a very different place." It was enthusiastically received, as well as one from Dr. Hardy "Down among the dead man." The Carpenter also sang a topical song and received a bumper. "Auld-lang-syne" was given as a finale three times round the table, and a pleasant seasonable evening was brought to a close by the singing of the National Anthem.

THE "UNDAUNTED."

This was the fourth Christmas the men on the *Undaunted* had spent away from Home, and naturally when the Commander, headed by the ship's band, and followed by his officers to the tune of "The Roast Beef of Old England," reached the mess deck, all was on the tiptoe of expectation surmising that at last he had received his homeward-bound orders. Not so. He tasted the "duff" at every mess, and when he had finished, he wished all the ship's company "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year." Lieut. Chetwood was then shouldered and carried round the mess deck to the tune of "He's a Jolly Good Fellow." After the officers had returned to the after deck, the petty officers and crew proceeded to carry out the day's programme. The oldest P.O., addressing his mess mates, paid a high tribute to his Commander who, he said, was "more than a Jolly Good Fellow." There was no doubt about it. Comdr. Eyres was the best naval commander on the station, and they knew it. They could not accord him more praise than was due to him. He well deserved their unstinted good wishes at this season of the year. It was a great pity, he continued, that the Home Government did not recompense Comdr. Eyres for the assiduous manner in which he had carried out his

duties during the ship's stay in Woosung, and the zeal he had shown in every detail connected with her. If the *Undaunted* had had the good fortune to have gone into action at Taku she would have proved herself, and would not have been wanting in her duty to her country and her Queen (cheers). In conclusion he wished to say emphatically that Commander Eyres had shown himself worthy of the D.S.O. in every way.

The decorations on the *Undaunted* were planned and carried out in a manner which reflected great credit upon the whole ship's company. There was considerable taste shown at some of the messes, and although it would be invidious to single out any one or two of them for special mention, we might say that those of the after part were simply exquisite. The display of evergreens and bunting across the deck on the after side had the appearance of a triumphal arch with two passage ways overhung with seasonable devices, the whole forming a brilliantly devised entrance, as it were, from the after deck to the fore part of the ship.

THE "ENDYMION."

In accordance with the time-honoured custom of cementing the good fellowship existing between officers and men on British men-o-war, precisely at a quarter to twelve o'clock on Christmas day the Master at Arms marched aft, and asked Captain C. A. Callaghan of H.M.S. *Endymion* if he cared to inspect the mess deck, and taste the Christmas dinners laid out for the ship's company. A reply in the affirmative being given, a procession was formed, and to the strains of "The Roast Beef of Old England," the mess deck became the scene of vociferous cheering, while the viands from the well-stocked tables were handed round to the visitors. The deck had been gaily trimmed with greenery, and no expense had been spared to show it off to seasonable advantage. Justice having been done to the good things provided, an adjournment was made to the forward deck where a variety concert was given, including songs, stump speeches, and dances. Leading Seaman Green gave some excellent selections on the mandolin, and Second Class Petty Officer Cowell rendered a few banjo solos, as well as accompanying the various singers. Second Class P. O. Ayre sang "Navy Blue," and Stoker Batchelor gave "The Fagship Victoria." Both received repeated plaudits, and both gave well chosen encores. Mr. Newlove and Mr. Hingston in two songs and dances acquitted themselves, and a pleasant afternoon wound up by the whole company singing the National Anthem.

THE "TERRIBLE."

Christmas Day on board the *Terrible* was observed in true naval fashion, the interior of the ship being richly decorated throughout. Many of the lower deck messes were triumphs of the decorator's art, some being almost hid amongst evergreens, whilst their tables bent beneath the weight of luxuries of every eatable description. It would seem as if the length of the order had been governed by the length of the mess table instead of by the number of its consuming inhabitants, to judge of the quantity of Christmas cheer that covered their surface, the odd spaces being filled in by photographs of sweethearts, from the gay geisha to the puritanical maid of Somerset. Punctually at noon the Captain, accompanied by Mrs. Scott, all the officers and many civilian friends, made a tour round the decks preceded by the ship's band, playing "The Roast Beef of Old England"—which by the way was conspicuous by its absence—and partook of the delicacies from the proffered plates, wishing each mess the Compliments of the Season. The parade over, dinner commenced, the afternoon being given up to frivolity, and in the evening a smoking concert was held forward for the ship's company, whilst the wardroom entertained the gunner and subordinate officers to dinner; a programme of music and songs following. Capt. Scott also gave a luncheon party on board at noon, and a dinner in the evening, the latter being attended by Mrs. Scott, Miss Westrop, Capt. Hoffmeyer, Imperial German Navy, Capt. Warrender, *Barfleur*, Commander Ogilvy, Lieut. Worsley, *Astræa*, Lieuts. Onslow and Wilde, and Sub-Lieut. Osborne, *Terrible*.

OPENING OF A NEW PORT.

The present moment would appear to be an unlikely one for the Chinese Government to confer upon the Foreign Powers an unsolicited concession, says the *Shanghai Mercury*, but this is nevertheless what seems to have actually occurred, a section of the River Bank at Wuchang having been set apart by Imperial edict for the purposes of general trade, the said section to be most appropriately called "The Self-Opened Port." That this concession is directly due to the personal initiative and influence of H.E. Chang Chih-tung there can be no reasonable doubt; and it is, further, probable that the benefits expected to accrue hence to the Viceroy's industrial enterprises are not altogether unconnected with it. We are glad to be able to lay before our readers the following official documents in connection with the new settlement.

Chen, the Taotai of Hankow, forwarded to the foreign Consuls there on the 13th instant this communication, continues the *Mercury* :—

I have the honour to address you in reference to a despatch received to-day from the Viceroy Chang, saying :—

"The river side without or beyond the distance of 10 li out from the north gate at Wuchang is opposite the landing of the Hankow railroad. Last year the Americans, on surveying the Canton and Hankow railroad, decided this was the place for its landing, and in the future this will become the trade centre for all points, and business will flourish. On November 29th of this year I received an edict authorising me to select and open a place on the river bank ten li or more distant from the north gate as a general trade centre, to be known as the "Self-Opened Port." Thus the people will be enriched and commerce benefited. I have directed the Kianghsia magistrate, in company with the new Land Office, to examine and draw a plan of the river side outside of the north gate. Besides which, I herewith send the five regulations that you may give notice to the Consuls of all nations to take note of the same."

In compliance with the above I write to you and send copies of the five regulations.

The five regulations of the "Self-Opened Business Place," ten li or more outside of the North Gate, are :—

1.—Having received an edict to open a "Self-Opened Business Place" ten li or more outside of Wuchang, I (the Viceroy) have deputed officers to select a convenient place and establish boundaries. Having done this they are to prepare a map with explanations, which is to be sent to the Consuls of all nations that they may notify their national merchants.

2.—All lands included in the specified boundaries, both public and private, are to be under the control of the "Riverside Office" which I have established and which office will select sites, arrange rentals, give certificates, etc. All Consuls will be notified when the map is completed, that they may inform the merchants of the date fixed, when they may be present at the Riverside Office and offer bids for rental before the official. To avoid trouble, neither Chinese nor foreign merchants will be allowed to make private arrangements with citizens in renting this property. Merchants renting land in the limits belonging to citizens must pay the rental to the official office. The official will decide what part of this to give the owner, and the balance will be reserved in the office for local use in making a bund, filling in, excavating the inner ditch, repairing the dyke, making landings and carriage roads and establishing a police force; and thus the place will prosper and both Chinese and foreign merchants be benefited.

3.—Inasmuch as this is a "Self-Established Business Place," outside of Wuchang, merchants of all nations are to live together without discrimination, and all will be treated the same, and it will not be necessary for each nation to have its particular limits.

4.—The rules for the government of the "Self-Opened Business Place" outside of Wuchang, and for the protection of the merchants, will be established by the Viceroy in a new set of regulations, and a day proclaimed for them to take effect. The officials will establish a Labour Office and a Detective Office, the ex-

penses of which will be met by the just and proportionate taxation of each renter.

5.—The bidding for the rental of land, limit on which the rental expires, paying of the rent money, and all minute rules, will be subject to a separate set of regulations, which will be partly taken from the "Yochow" regulations as thought best. When this is done, the Consuls of all the nations will be notified.

CHILDREN'S GALA DAY AT THE CENTRAL POLICE STATION.

Following on the police dance on Christmas night, in which the big folks had an outlet for superfluous energies, Mr. and Mrs. May on Wednesday gave their annual treat to the children of police officials. The entertainment was given in the compound of the Central Police Station, which was bedecked with flags and bunting. The event of the day, from the juvenile point of view, was the opening of the "bran pie"—a departure from the old Christmas tree custom. The "pie" was a large vessel something like a bath, in which, covered with bran, the presents for the children were placed. After tea, races were held, the majority handicap events, in which the following were successful:—

Girls over 10.—1, Katie Ennson; 2, Alice Hanson; 3, Ethel Hanson.

Girls, 7—10.—1, Beatrice Robertson; 2, Dorothy Baker; 3, Ella McNab.

Children under 7.—1, Henry Hanson; 2, Madeline Cuthbert; 3, Bertha Baker.

Boys over 10.—1, Willie Mackie; 2, Leonard Ford; 3, Stanley Lord.

Boys, 7—10.—1, Willie Hanson; 2, Willie Robertson.

Boys under 7.—1, James Fyfe; 2, Robert McNab.

Girls' Consolation Race.—1, Alice Hanson; 2, Ethel Hanson; 3, Lily McNab.

Boys' Consolation Race (under 7).—1, Alec Robertson; 2, George Hanson; 3, James Robertson.

Older Boys.—1, Willie Mackie; 2, Leonard Ford; 3, Stanley Ford and Willie Hanson (dead heat).

A piper from the Naval Yard was in attendance, and after the races dancing was indulged in by the police officers and friends present. A bluejacket went through the *Ghillie Callum* and the Highland Fling, and was warmly applauded. Mr. and Mrs. May were accorded three cheers and a "tiger." Altogether a most enjoyable day was spent.

MEETING OF JUSTICES.

APPLICATION FOR LICENCE REFUSED.

A special session of Justices of the Peace was held in the Justices' Room at the Magistracy on Thursday afternoon for the purpose of considering an application from one Washington Woodcock for a publican's licence for the premises situated at 192-194, Queen's Road East, and known as the Eastern Hotel. Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Acting Police Magistrate, occupied the chair, and there were present Messrs. G. H. Kemp, C. A. D. Melbourne (Clerk to the Justice), H. P. Tooker, A. Denison, and Dr. Clark.

Mr. M. W. SLADE, who appeared in support of the application, said Mr. Woodcock was at present the holder of a licence in Kowloon City. Since the acquisition of the New Territory by the Government, licences there cost the same as one in Victoria, and could not be made to pay at the price charged. The applicant was willing to give up his present licence if the magistrates consented to grant him one for Eastern Hotel.

Mr. HAZELAND—The application was before the magistrates at the last regular meeting, and it was thought that there was no necessity for another public-house in that district. There is no objection to the man himself.

Mr. SLADE, regarding the question of necessity, said the house would prove very convenient for people coming from and going to Happy Valley, who deserved to be catered for.

Mr. SLADE then retired, while the magistrates considered their decision in private, the result of the discussion being that the application was unanimously refused, on the ground that there was no necessity for another public-house.

THE THEATRE.

The Taylor-Carrington Company scored a distinct success on the 22nd inst. in their production of Mr. A. C. Gunter's universally-read *Barnes of New York*. Mr. Charlie Taylor, as the easy-going, nonchalant Barnes, completely established himself as an actor of undoubted ability—as, indeed, he has already done in the multifarious roles in which Hongkong audiences have seen him. Miss Ella Carrington, as Marina Pauli, vividly expounded the passionate nature of the Corsican maiden who has sworn a vendetta against the man who killed her brother. In her double role of Marina Pauli's brother and Enid Anstruther, Miss Laura Roberts showed to excellent advantage, and this can also be said of Mr. C. W. Taylor and Mr. C. Inglis, the latter making a particularly good bull-dog, fire-eating Englishman, whose frequent snubbings by the imitable Barnes were nevertheless much enjoyed by the sailor and soldier portion of the audience. In a word, all the parts were excellently sustained, although Mr. P. Carlton (Count Danella) might with advantage have infused more life into his words and actions. The programme was under the patronage of Mr. Rounseville Wildman, U.S. Consul-General, and the audience was fairly large.

On the 21st inst., our visitors presented the legendary drama *Rip van Winkle*, in which the performers showed to better advantage than they have yet done in Hongkong. Mr. Charlie Taylor in particular, as Rip himself, proved what a genuinely good actor he is, and his broken Dutch-English alone was well worth a visit to the theatre. He scored an emphatic success. Miss Ella Carrington as Dame van Winkle was most excellent and in the smaller part of Rowena in the third act also pleased the audience. Among the other performers, the chief honours perhaps fell to Mr. C. W. Taylor as Kuickerbocker, and to Mr. P. Carlton as Herman van Slaus in the third act, but they were well supported by the rest of the company.

The first performance of *Tony Tommy Atkins* on Wednesday night was a great success. The piece is full of fun, catchy music, and clever dancing, and the audience was kept amused and interested from start to finish. The scene in the first act is laid in England, and we are introduced to Major-General Horsanfut, Tony Tommy Atkins, and Lady Constance. The Major-General loses his heart to Lady Constance, who, however, does not return his love, preferring the Private, Tony Tommy Atkins, to the General. Thinking to get rid of his rival and thus secure a clear field for himself the General sends Tommy to South Africa. Here Tommy distinguishes himself to such an extent in fighting the Boers that he is made Commander-in-Chief, and on returning to the old country marries the lady of his choice, and both "live happily ever afterwards." Miss Carrington, who took the part of Tommy Atkins, excelled herself, comporting herself with a jaunty ease much in keeping with the part. She looked well in her fine uniform and contributed several songs which went with a swing and were great successes. Miss Angie Potter made an admirable Lady Constance, whilst Miss Laura Roberts as Angelique, the French maid, made a decided hit with the "Lu-Lu" song and dance. Miss Delia Leo was noticeable as Geisha Kruger. Mr. Charlie Taylor as Sergeant McSpoofer (an Irish Scotchman) kept the audience in the roar with his comicalities. It is generally admitted that as a comedian Mr. Taylor is one of the best we have had in the colony for some time, and none of the characters in which we have seen him does he come out stronger than in Sergeant McSpoofer. Other characters in the play, one Rev. Mr. Smugford (an amorous parson), Mr. C. W. Taylor; President Steyn, Mr. C. Inglis; Oom Paul, Mr. G. Paget; Babs, Mr. Mellin; Nurse Wilson, Lady C. Clive; and Drummer McSawsee, Mlle. A. Martelli.

On Thursday *Tony Tommy Atkins* was repeated.

Capt. David Beatty, D.S.O., R.N., who was promoted post-captain for his services in North China, is completely disabled as far as his left arm is concerned. He was last month in London, undergoing medical treatment.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 27th December.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS REPORTED SETTLED. It is said in mandarin circles that a telegram has been received by the Acting Viceroy announcing the settlement of peace negotiations. It is not yet made public officially, because the contracting parties are awaiting the return of the Emperor Kwang Hsu to Peking to confirm it. The general opinion in Canton is that the longer the negotiations drag their slow length along the more mischief the delay may lead to, not to mention that commerce has already been considerably affected thereby. The disaffected populace might ultimately break out into open rebellion.

A GALLANT FRENCH SAILOR.

On the 21st ult. at 8 a.m., when the s.s. *Hankow* was leaving for Hongkong, she steamed near the French gunboat *Avalanche*, and, the current being very strong at that time, ran down a sampan with an old man and woman and child in it, who were thrown into the water. A French sailor named Hamon, on board the *Avalanche*, saw it, and immediately jumped into the water. He saved the child, and then the woman, the old man being picked up by another boat that passed by. No matter what has been said against them in other quarters, the officers and marines of the French gunboats are very popular in Canton. This is the third time that they have saved the lives of poor Chinese when the latter's compatriots would not in such cases extend even a helping hand.

PROMOTIONS FOR CANTON OFFICIALS.

News reached Canton that the present Hoppo is promoted to be a Cabinet Minister, and that the brother of the Tartar General is made a Vice-president of one of the Imperial Departments. When they will go to take up their positions is a question of time; it may be three months, six months, or a year hence.

SANDAKAN NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Sandakan, 18th December.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF NORTH BORNEO.

Mr. E. W. Birch, of Negri Sembilan, has been appointed to the Governorship of British North Borneo and Labuan, in succession to Governor Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., and it is understood that the former will arrive at Labuan next month to take up his new post. All who have known Mr. Birch speak very highly of his enthusiasm, energy, and tremendous capacity for work, and there is but little doubt that no appointment in succession to Mr. Clifford could have given more genuine pleasure to those who wish to see Borneo advance and prosper. This second Colonial Office appointment has given an amount of confidence to the country's well-wishers that has to be felt to be thoroughly understood.

MANILA.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 20th December.

THE RETURN OF THE VOLUNTEERS.

On 11th December the War Department at Washington cabled to General McArthur at Manila in reference to the return of the volunteer troops who have been in the service since July, 1899. It was a cable that has been long expected; in fact the Adjutant-General has been talking about it since before the elections in the beginning of November. As it reduces the present strength of the Philippine forces by about one-half—and everybody knows that the army to-day is barely half large enough to tackle the insurrection in such a way as to handle the question successfully and enforce order—it will not be any exaggeration to say that nobody had the slightest idea that the announcements of the Adjutant-General would be carried out until after long delays. Therefore it was all the greater surprise when a bulletin was posted in the military headquarters on Tuesday afternoon, saying that in accordance with instructions received from Washington, the movement of the Volunteers from these

islands to the United States for muster out will begin about January 1st, 1901. It is proposed to return the regiments as nearly as practicable in the order of arrival in the Philippines, and these men will be replaced by regular troops to be sent from the United States. At the same time instructions were issued concerning the carrying out of the details of the movements under the supervision of the Department Commanders, who will assemble the regiments at Manila or elsewhere, as may be directed from Headquarters. Under this arrangement the 37th Volunteer Infantry and the 11th Volunteer Cavalry will be the first troops to return and their date of departure is set for New Year's Day.

THE U. S. MILITARY DIFFICULTY.

This is all very well, and brings joy to the hearts of the Volunteers, but it certainly seems as though the War Department is counting its chickens before they are hatched. Under the actual conditions existing to-day there is no provision for the raising of new regiments to replace the Volunteers, and there are not enough regular troops stationed in the United States to do more than maintain order in their several districts. In fact the States have never in their history been in a much worse position as regards home protection. Almost the entire army is on foreign service. For the last three weeks Congress has been struggling with the Army Bill, and up to to-day we have had no notice of its passage or rejection. This most important Bill provides for the necessary increase in the forces that will admit of the substitution of regular troops for the present Volunteers. Its provisions were framed to authorize the raising of an army sufficiently large to immediately relieve the twenty-four infantry regiments and the 11th Cavalry now in the Philippines. It is in this way only that the Volunteers can be returned to America. Even the most optimistic person will concede that it would be impossible to withdraw the volunteer army without ruining all hope of success in the archipelago. In view of these conditions it is surprising that we hear of the order for the return of all the Volunteers before the decision of Congress is known. In the meantime we must put faith in Congress and the War Department and take it for granted that they thoroughly understand each other.

A CRITICAL PERIOD.

Doubtless since the election of President McKinley and the persistent assurances of the military heads, especially General Otis, that the war is all over, the public is howling for the return of the troops and the reduction of the war expenditures. It is to be hoped that the experienced administration will legislate in such a way that the islands will be adequately garrisoned, so that some good may come of the hard-fought position that the United States occupy here to-day. It is a critical period where the slightest let up in the military activity will lead to the greatest of disasters and to the loss of practically all that has been gained during more than two years of war.

"Palinurus" writes in the *N.-C. Daily News*, saying:—"At the present day we hear and read a good deal about the British Sphere of Influence in the Yangtze Valley, and it is not unlike the battle cry of 'On to Richmond' in the United States during the Civil War. The masterly inactivity on all sides is surprising, and this phraseology seems sufficient to shape the course while all goes to seed. The Yangtze River, if viewed in any light, is rather a neglected and unknown quantity. The British Admiralty charts are so obsolete and in want of correction that a British Navy Officer cannot trust to them to navigate H. M. ships in the daylight, and the Navy is obliged to employ unlicensed pilots to guide the war-ships in these muddy waters, for, strange to say, there are no licensed pilots above Woosung. More wonderful still, it is the only place in the world where a British steamer can be manned and run without the captain and officers holding certificates. The lighting of the Yangtze has hardly been changed since the river was opened to trade." "Palinurus" concludes:—"The Sphere of Influence in the future, we hope, will be less one-sided, and have more light in its programme."

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

MOSQUITOES AND MALARIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 19th December.

SIR,—As a visitor come to this charming island to recover from a "little go" of malaria, I have naturally been much interested in the improvements (?) now going on with the hope of stamping out the disease. I have been a heavy loser by it myself, both in health and pocket, for the past dozen years, and my experience as a practical man—not a medical—will be corroborated by all other practical men doing outdoor work in the tropics.

Dr. Manson, in whom all tropical men have the greatest faith, originated the mosquito theory. Major Ross proved that only one variety of mosquito carried the malarial germ. Dr. Manson, in the person of his son, proved that the malarial mosquito did not of itself give fever, but acted only as a transmitting agent. He brought several lots of malarial mosquitoes from Rome. His son allowed himself to be freely bitten by all, but it was only after the 4th or 5th lot that he developed malaria. They were all the true malarial mosquito and had all come from a very feverish district; still only some 20 per cent. had the power to produce fever. As another experiment two enterprising doctors took out a small mosquito-proof house, and erected it in a notoriously malarial district, in the Campagna near Rome, and took every care not to get bitten by mosquitoes. They lived in this for some two months, and because they did not develop malaria in that short period a large number of our medical men at once say 2 and 2 make 5 and that mosquitoes are the sole cause of malaria. This is quite overlooking Dr. Manson's proof that they are only transmitting agents.

I can quote the cases of many young men who have come to the tropics and lived in the most malarial districts for years. The native labour round them was dying off like sleep, and still they did not develop fever, for two or three years, although bitten by millions of mosquitoes in that time. This shows that something in their constitution resisted the malarial germ, and that they were not "fever subjects."

The two months test in the Campagna was therefore quite inadequate, as these two particular individuals might not have developed malaria, had they lived in their hut for any number of years. The mosquito-proof hut was in itself a great protection, as in addition to keeping out mosquitoes it also kept out the miasma (on the principle of the Humphry Davy lamp.)

It has been the experience of all practical men in the tropics, for generations, that wherever the soil is disturbed, for any new work of any kind whatsoever, the native labourers resident on the work at once develop malaria. The European having a better constitution, and living better, generally resists it longer than the native.

All the long record of malaria from Hongkong to Panama, is now entirely forgotten and overlooked by our mosquito doctors. They have mounted their hobby, and like the beggar on horseback are riding to the devil.

I have heard of one, the most dangerous local maniac, cornered by a friend, who argued him round the circle backwards, from the point that mosquitoes cause malaria, to the point that the mosquito had to get it from somewhere else first, when asked "where then did malaria originate" get out of it by saying he might as well ask him the Origin of Species. He admitted the weak point in his hobby, but goes on riding it gaily all the same.

It is common sense to accept the long established fact that malaria is caused by a poisonous gas emitted from the soil. The heat of a tropical sun beating on the earth all day causes fermentation and decay of both mineral and vegetable matter in the soil. At night the earth returns its heat to the atmosphere, and with it gives off poisonous vapours.

Disturb the soil and these vapours are given off in such increased volume that malaria is at once produced. I suppose our mos-

quito fiends will say that cannot be proved, unless they can erect a gasometer in some suitable place. If, however, they will study the start of any new excavations, and take samples of the coolies' blood, as soon as they break down with fever, I have no doubt the malarial germ will be found in sufficient numbers to convince them.

Coming now to the improvements around the sanatorium at Magazine Gap, I see that all the undergrowth and grass is being stripped off, as it is supposed to shelter the mosquitoes. Clearing off the grass is a fatal mistake, as it is taking away the only covering the soil has got. When the heavy rains break, they will tear down the bare hillsides in torrents, carrying away all the surface soil. The effect will be the same as turning over fresh soil, all the gasses will be set free and there will be far more malaria than formerly.

As regards the site of the Sanatorium itself I would unhesitatingly condemn it as unhealthy, and would pull the building down and remove it elsewhere. No amount of tinkering will ever make the site an healthy one. It has been proved, time and again, in different places in the tropics, that houses situated on top of a small hill, surrounded by higher hills, are invariably unhealthy. The explanation is a perfectly simple one in the present instance. All the miasma from Hongkong on one side rises up through Magazine and Wanchai Gaps, and from Aberdeen and Deep Water Bay on the other side. The whole of this miasma is either concentrated on the Sanatorium or drifting through it. The mist rolls down over the hills, prevents the miasma from rising any higher and holds it there, until dispersed by the sun at 7.30 or 8 a.m. In other countries where there are higher mountains I have seen the clouds hang in a series of 3 and 4 parallel belts. According to the shapes of the surrounding hills, the heights vary in different localities, but the mist always hangs the same in any one place. These clouds I call malarial mist belts, and if a house is built in one of them it invariably proves unhealthy. I have known it healthy up to 100 or 200 feet, deadly at 300, healthy from 400 to 1000, deadly at 1100, healthy from 1200 to 1700, deadly at 1800, and so on up to heights over 3000 feet. This explains why natives living on the edge of a swamp are often quite healthy, while the European, in his bungalow, on a lovely site on the hill above, is frequently suffering from fever. Lastly, as a word of warning, if your medical attendant is a mosquito maniac, avoid him as you would a mad dog, or a man running amuck. Either of these can at most kill but a few individuals, while the doctor under the cloak of science slays his tens and invalids hundreds more.—Yours, etc.,

VISITOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 22nd December.

SIR,—I was very much interested in the letter under above heading and over the signature of "Visitor." It is refreshing to hear the views of a man blessed with commonsense in contradistinction to the faddists run mad, who, being wretched sciolists, simply spend public money and slay innocent persons to gratify their own preposterous and idiotic whims. Is there no authority who can take charge of these eccentric persons and prevent them from making the island a hot-bed of fever in their rage to prove a theory which is so obviously rotten? The mosquito, like the flea or the fly, might, perhaps, under certain circumstances—predisposing state of the blood or existence of fetid water in the vicinity—convey poison to the sick or the weak, but I do not believe they carry malaria to the healthy. I have lived in the tropics nearly thirty years and have been bitten by countless mosquitoes, but I have never had fever. The upturning of disintegrated granite and the formation of death traps in the shape of bad drains are, in my opinion, the main causes of fever of all kinds, both malarial and typhoid, in this colony. Another cause for ordinary fever, and that the most common of all, is the rashness of persons—particularly griffins—who will overheat themselves or overtire themselves by exercise down below or by too long indulgence in swim-

ming, and then rush up in the tram to the Peak where they meet with another climate, and then suffer from chill or reaction. If only the public would trust more to commonsense and common precaution and pay less attention to silly theories, their health would be greatly benefited.—Yours, etc.,

VOX.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 23rd December.

SIR,—Two of the many sequelæ of malaria are pronounced irritability and an unwonted excitability. It must be pretty plain to the most casual even of your many readers that "Visitor" is suffering acutely from both these painful after-effects. He has formed his opinion as to the causes of the disease; and as, in his peregrinations about our sea-fretted, nook-shotten island home, he sees, on all sides, abundant evidence of Dr. Manson's theory being actively worked out, he incontinently flies into a towering passion, and splutteringly confides his woes unto you. May I be allowed to remind him that sobriety of language does not detract from the value of any statement, though never so hare-brained; whereas violent epithets, as an almost invariable rule, boomerang-like, return with most damaging effect? Temperance of expression is as admirable in the ephemeral production of a journalistic free lance, as in the signed article. The opposite quality not infrequently leads to exaggeration, and, at times, even to self-contradiction. "Visitor's" young men who have lived in the tropics for two or three years immune from malaria, though bitten by millions of mosquitoes [*ipsissima verba*] prove him guilty of the failing first named, while cursory comparison of the loose-jointed first sentence of the second paragraph of his letter, with his flippant "word of warning" at the end of his remarkable lucubration, clearly convicts him of the second and more serious fault. He unctuously prides himself on being a "practical" man, on his "common sense" etc., etc., *ad nauseam*. The scientific man, for whom he makes no effort to disguise his vitriolic contempt, is nothing if not practical, and is, moreover, eminently gifted with a good fund of common sense. The main difference between the "man in the street" and the man of science is that the former applies his commonsense in a haphazard, off-hand style, while the latter does so in an orderly manner. Science, in its broadest meaning, is but the methodical and organised use of everyday commonplace knowledge.

"Visitor" should speak for himself, and not drag "all other practical men," lief or loath, into the same net of entanglement that he himself is, vide the last three lines of his first precious paragraph. Personally, I strongly object to support him: and I imagine that others will also range themselves against him.

His letter contains several inaccuracies of fact. He says two men took part in the Ostia experiment. There were three: Drs Sambon and G. S. Low, of the London School of Tropical Medicine, in addition to Signor Terzi. He says the experiment was not long enough. Indeed, Sir Oracle! Why, the place chosen has so evil a reputation, that the inhabitants of Rome—which is quite near, while Hongkong is very far—consider that to sleep there is alone sufficient to contract severe fever. Not a few thought the three men above named incurred the gravest risks.

Again, "Visitor's" reference to the Humphrey Davy lamp, far from being the palpable hit intended, is an apt illustration of that cock-sure, free-and-easy manner with which your ordinary practical individual blazons abroad his poor smattering of scientific information. As any coal-miner of experience can tell him, the safety of the lamp in question depends, not on the fallacious supposition that the wire-gauze acts as a filter shutting out the highly explosive mixture of light carburetted hydrogen and atmospheric air, but on the fact of its cooling properties. The dangerous mixture of gases, as is well known, actually enters the lamp and burns inside; but—and this is where he has gone astray—the wire gauze so far cools the escaping products of combustion that they cannot heat to igniting point the mixture which is outside and in immediate contact with the miner's lamp. The mosquito-proof hut used in the Campagna

experiment was no more of a filter to the surrounding night air than is the metal gauze of the coal miner's lamp to the deadly fire-damp. The three men breathed the same air inside their specially built hut as they would have done in an unprotected dwelling erected in the same locality. They were fended off from mosquitoes only; hence their resulting freedom from malaria.

Any one who has intelligently followed the experiments that have been and that are still being carried on in connection with the deeply engrossing subject of malaria and mosquitoes, acknowledges that the female anopheles is the mere agent of transmission—nothing more. As to the ultimate source of the fever germ, that has yet to be discovered. The entire theory is at present but in its early infancy. We are undoubtedly on the threshold of astounding discoveries in this direction. Yellow fever has recently been traced in Cuba to inoculation by *Culex fasciatus*, a species of mosquito particularly tiresome during the rains in certain regions. The *Philadelphia Medical Journal*, at the end of October, contained an interesting report of practically conclusive experiments made by the United States Army Surgeons in Cuba, demonstrating this fact. Three doctors allowed themselves to be bitten experimentally; all suffered from the disease, and one, a martyr to science if ever there was one—a mosquito-fiend, or a mosquito-maniac, "Visitor," in his uncharitable ignorance, would dub him—unhappily succumbed.

All kinds of theories to account for malaria have, at various times and in different localities, been propounded; and by turns practically every condition prevailing in malarial districts has been blamed. A given theory is, of course, acceptable as long as it satisfies observed phenomena. As soon as it fails to do so it is rejected. It is highly probable that miasma has no more to do with any of the three forms of malaria than epicycles have with planetary motions.

It was surely in delicate irony or veiled railery, Mr. Editor, that, in your Thursday's issue, you styled "Visitor's" crowded-out communication interesting?

I might go through his extraordinary letter and traverse his statements in detail. I think, however, I have written enough to prove that he is not yet able to lead or guide us in the matter. He had far better stand humbly aside, and leave the task in the hands of those who are specially trained for the work.

Apologising for my length, and enclosing my card, I am, dear sir, yours, etc.,

RESIDENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 24th December.

SIR,—It is very amusing to find a man who does not appear to understand the principle of the Humphrey Davy lamp setting himself up as an authority on such a difficult and complex subject as the causation of malaria.

Your correspondent "Visitor" says in his letter in your issue of Saturday that he thinks that Drs. Sambon and Low, who spent last summer in the most unhealthy part of the Campagna, owed their immunity from fever in part to the fact that their mosquito nets prevented the miasma from reaching them (on the principle of the Humphrey Davy Lamp). I suppose "Visitor" means that the wire gauze of the Humphrey Davy lamp prevents the inflammable gases of which fire damp is composed from reaching the flame. Unfortunately for "Visitor's" argument, the reverse is the case. Fire-damp passes freely through the gauze of the lamp and actually burns inside, but the metallic gauze conducts the heat away so quickly that the flame will not pass through the gauze and ignite the gases on the outside. Anyone may prove this for himself by holding a piece of wire gauze over a turned-on gas-burner and lighting the gas above it.

If "Visitor" is still sceptical about gases passing through mosquito nets, let him, protected by a mosquito net, sleep in a room with the gas burners turned on. I for one should be well assured that by next morning Hongkong would be rid for ever of a "Visitor" who was doing his little best to hold back the progress of science and retard the advance of truth. Again "Visitor" appears to find it a great

stumbling block to the acceptance of the malarial mosquito theory that no one can explain how the first fever germ started. Curiously enough a friend asked me the same question, viz., how did an anopheles mosquito first get a fever germ into him, and I could only answer in the same way as the local "maniac" and refer him to the origin of all living things. I cannot see why this is a difficulty. Let us take one or two parallel cases. Mistletoe is a parasitic plant growing on several kinds of trees. One might almost call it a disease of the tree, since it weakens the tree by absorbing the sap for its own growth. Birds eat mistletoe berries and deposit the seeds about in various places. Some seed finds a resting place in a crevice of a suitable tree and grows again into a bunch of mistletoe. Because no one can tell me how first a tree became attacked by mistletoe, or how a bird first came to have a mistletoe berry inside it, this want of knowledge does not in any way disprove the fact that mistletoe is a parasitic growth on trees, and that it is transmitted from tree to tree by birds.

Another instance which is perhaps more apposite. One form of tape-worm which inhabits the intestines of man gets there by man eating pig's flesh in which the worm exists in an embryonic encysted form. These embryos on getting into a man develop into a tape-worm, which lays eggs at the rate of several thousand per day. Some few eggs finally get swallowed by a pig, and in the pig develop into the encysted form which imbeds itself in his muscles to be again eaten by man, and so the cycle of the life of the tape-worm goes on. These are well ascertained facts, but who can say how the pig first got the embryonic tape-worm? We can only say it is part of the scheme of nature, which is only another way of confessing our ignorance. Almost exactly similar is the malarial germ. It is a true living parasite, living in the blood of man and passed from man to man by a certain variety of mosquito, but heaven only knows how or when it first originated in nature. Nor does our want of knowledge in this respect in any way disprove the malaria mosquito theory.

"Visitor" tells us he is a practical but not a medical man. Many such are experts with the microscope. Has "Visitor" examined the malarial parasite in the blood of a fever patient? Has he seen the parasite in its various stages of development in the mosquito till it finally gets into the mosquito's salivary gland ready for injection into a human being? I think he cannot have seen them, else had he been a convert. And if he has not seen them, what right has he, may I ask, to palm off his old time views on an enlightened colony? Let him go and study the subject microscopically and otherwise, and after that perhaps he may be more fitted to teach the public through the columns of a daily paper. One thing is certain, and that is that malaria is a parasitic disease, that the parasite is a living organism which has its habitat in man's blood corpuscles; it is taken up by mosquitoes with the blood, and in one species (anopheles) finds a suitable host in which to grow. In that mosquito it undergoes certain changes, increasing and multiplying and finally gets injected with the salivary secretion into whatever the mosquito bites. If it be a man, that man will probably get an attack of fever: not certainly, however, because the man may be sufficiently resistant, so that if he only gets a small dose of malarial germs his blood may succeed in preventing the malarial organism from growing. Of course this proves nothing against a possibility of some other way of entry, except that we find that nature is almost always uniform in her methods designed for the propagation of species. However, whether malaria can be got in some other way or not, we know for certain that it can be disseminated by anopheles mosquitoes. Surely then it is our duty to try and diminish malarial fever by getting rid of mosquitoes, even if we cannot hope to get rid of it altogether.

MEDICO.

THE TRAMWAY COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
Hongkong, 20th December.

SIR,—The legitimate complaint of your correspondent "Peakite" in this morning's issue

concerning the inconvenience and danger of the Plantation Road Tram Station is one of old standing, and dates back to the first days of the Company's existence as a working venture. Both danger and inconvenience, however, are greatly intensified, on account of the largely increased number of people who now make use of this station as their terminus. Let me assure "Peakite" that the grievance is likely to continue to exist unremedied. It is an open secret that the company could increase their already ample fares, were they not prevented from doing so by statute. The most convincing evidence of their utter indifference to public wants, is the substantial granite chair-shelter that the Government, not the Tram Company, mind you, is magnanimously erecting at Victoria Gap. More than one lady—my wife among others—has had dresses and shoes hopelessly ruined by contact with the greasy rope, while getting in and out of the car at Plantation Road. Competition might move the General Managers. Nothing short of this will ever cause them to budge. On the contrary, they will sit tight until the agitation becomes so strong that, out of sheer pity, Government will step in and make them a charitable gift of land, or rebuild their awkward station. Their shares are quoted at 90 per cent. premium, and last year they paid a 12 per cent. dividend. They are thus far removed from a state of insolvency, and ought not to pose, hat in hand, as needy, wayside beggars. Economy is always praiseworthy, unnecessary stinginess is proverbially contemptible.—I enclose my card, and am, dear sir, yours, etc.,

HILLS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 22nd December.

SIR,—Referring to the letters which have appeared in your columns on the 20th and 22nd inst. signed respectively "Peakite" and "Hills," we notice the former in referring to the possibility of improving the Plantation Road Station says that "It is not impossible and the expense would not be great." As we are, and always have been, very desirous of remedying the defects of this station, we shall be greatly obliged to your correspondent if he will point out any practical manner in which this can be done without stopping the traffic.

With regard to "Hills' letter, which we are somewhat surprised you should have published, it is so manifestly ridiculous that any comment on it is unnecessary.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON,
General Managers, The Hongkong High-level
Tramways Company, Limited.

[With regard to the letter signed "Hills," it is only necessary to state that the writer is a resident of standing in the colony, whose remarks on the subject under discussion we saw no reason for suppressing.—Ed. D. P.]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 24th December.

SIR,—In reply to the letter of to-day from the General Managers of the Tramways Co., I beg to state—

Firstly, the obvious and easiest remedy of my grievance is the erection of a platform on the east side of the line at Plantation Road Station and a slight alteration of the cars. This is not impossible.

Secondly, another remedy is a hoisting gangway similar to those used by the Ferry Company's double-enders, to be raised and lowered as occasion required. This I am not sure about, but I think it possible.

Thirdly, there are five lines of rails at the Plantation Road Station, including the two rails for use by the brakes. On the two rails nearest the present Station, place a small platform or trolley on wheels. The car on the eastern line would carry it up in a similar manner to the "depressor" to the top-side station. It would bring it down again on the return journey, drop it by means of detachable gear at the Plantation Road Station, and when the car on the western rails arrived at this station on its upward journey, the trolley is there (the objectionable rope underneath it) for passengers to step on to before getting on to the platform. This car would then continue its journey up and down without in any way interfering with the suggested trolley.

I hope the explanation of my suggestion will be understood, if not, I shall be glad to call and see the General Managers and explain it fully. It may interest them to know that in the course of conversation with Messrs. Orange and Buyers, their consulting engineer and manager respectively, I put this last suggestion before them and they both considered it practicable.

I think there may be other ways of getting over the difficulty, but not being an engineer I am not able to suggest further.

Suffice it to say, "Where there's a will there's a way," and if the General Managers take the matter up seriously they will find a means of doing it and so earning the gratitude of a large number of the residents of the upper levels, including yours, &c.,

PEAKITE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 24th December.

SIR,—The letter from the General Managers of the above Company, as published in your columns of to-day's date, furnishes but another instance, if more were indeed needed, of their inexplicable reluctance to consider the comfort or convenience of those who help them to pay splendid dividends. It is so wholly characteristic of them to ask, publicly too, for gratuitous expert advice. After the magnificent returns of the working year just ended, their questionable policy of turning an absolutely deaf ear to what amounts to a serious grievance to passengers getting on and off at Plantation Road is, to say the least, more quixotic than ever.—Yours, etc.,

HILLS.

WHY NOT A PUBLIC HOLIDAY?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 27th December.

SIR,—Next Monday, the 31st of December, is not only the last day of the year, but the closing day of this wonderful nineteenth century. According to the most recently received mail papers, it will be a general holiday throughout France and other countries using the Gregorian Calendar. The day, unhappily, is a mail day here, so that a whole holiday would be highly inconvenient. But those who take the initiative in such matters—is it the Government, the Chamber of Commerce, or the leading Banks?—might declare a holiday, say, from noon.

The absence of a regatta has this year already deprived the community of at least two half-day holidays.

The suggestion comes late, but not too late to be acted upon.—Yours, etc.,

ALMANAC.

FUND IN AID OF SUFFERERS FROM THE TYPHOON.

The Hon. Treasurer begs to acknowledge receipt of the following amounts to the above Fund, and will be glad to receive further subscriptions:—

Previously acknowledged £50 & \$17,352.20

Wing Kee & Co.	250
Robert Jack & Co.	250
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank	
Compradore	150
A. Rumjahn	100
Chi On	100
Chan Shek Shan	100
Wong Chuk Yau	100
Mok Tso Tsun	100
Pacific Mail S.S. Co. Compradore	100
Leung Yan Po	100
Li Pak	100
Kwok Siu Lan	100
Wong Shiu Tong	100
Wei Lun Shek	100
Yung Hin Pong	100
Tang Cheuk Hing	100
Wan Ho	100
Yeung Lan Kee	100
Tsoi Chan	100
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.	100
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd.	100
E. E. Telegraph Co.	100
Nam Cheong	70
Wo Lun	70
Ko Loong Tai	60

Shun Hing	\$60
China Sugar Refg. Co., Ltd.	50
Cheong Loong	50
A. Tack & Co.	50
Wong Yu Chuen	50
Dodwell & Co., Ltd., Compradore	50
Siemssen & Co. Compradore	50
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Yuen Foong Yun	30
Fook On Cheong	30
Fook Leo	30
Tai Chan	30
Kwong Hung Shaing	30
Sin On Loong	30
Tu Wing	30
Kwong Yuen Shing	30
Kwong Fook Loong	25
Chi Chung Wo	25
Hang Tai	25
On Tai	25
Yan Cheong	25
Po Foong Cheong Sing Kee	25
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Leung Sing	20
A. G. Romano	20
A. H. Chinoy	15
C. A. Camroodin	10
Heuermann, Herbst & Co.	10
Carlowitz & Co. Compradore	10
Tak Lee	10
Kwong Wah Cheong	10
Cheung Loong	10
Yee On	10
A. Babington	10
Dr. Francis Clark	10
John Meior	10
F. Hohnko	10
E. Thonert	10
And. Gehonemann	10
Dr. Gerlach	10
H. D. Jones	10
C. Haggo	5
A. Rodger	5
J. Meek	5
H. Webster	5
J. Cartlidge	5
J. N. MacDougall	5
L. C. do Rozario	5
J. J. Leiria	5
Ang. J. do Rozario	5
H. J. M. de Carvalho	5
F. M. Gutierrez	5
G. A. Woodcock	5
J. J. Bryan	5
E. G. Figg	5
Dhanamal Chellaram	5
L. Noronha	5
C. Chee Bee	3
C. L.	3
Jmo. M. E. Machado	3
A. C. More	3
J. Dickie	3
B. C. Postwalla	3
R. D. Vania	2
F. J. V. Jorge	2
J. P. Xavier	2
W. Fincher	2
E. D. Rogers	2
H. White	2
V. I. dos Remedios	2
L. G. d'Almada e Castro	2
A. Camoron	2
A. Bain	2
T. Blair	2
R. Adam	2
J. Rodger	2
T. Baulk	2
J. Gloyd	2
H. E. McKenzie	2
E. Smillie	2

J. McCorquadales	...	...	...	\$2
C. Lee	...	...	...	2
J. Gallreath	...	...	...	2
J. Lee	...	...	...	2
L. E. Brett	...	...	...	1
F. Fisher	...	...	...	1
W. H. Woolley	...	...	...	1
J. Reidie	...	...	...	1
H. J. Knight	...	...	...	1
A. Brown	...	...	...	1
F. Allen	...	...	...	1
P. O'Donnell	...	...	...	1
James D. Osmund	...	...	...	1
F. M. Freire Luz	...	...	...	1
E. E. da Silva	...	...	...	1
P. M. N. da Silva	...	...	...	1
J. M. de Graca	...	...	...	1
F. M. P. da Graca	...	...	...	1
A. F. dos Remedios	...	...	...	1
A. J. M. Gomes	...	...	...	1
D. A. Cordeiro	...	...	...	1
J. A. de Britto	...	...	...	1
A. A. Alvares	...	...	...	1
V. F. V. Ribeiro	...	...	...	1
E. M. Roberts	...	...	...	1
A. A. da Roza	...	...	...	1
A. A. Alves	...	...	...	1
F. E. Marques	...	...	...	1
A. E. S. Alves	...	...	...	1
J. M. Gomes	...	...	...	1
J. F. C. de Roza	...	...	...	1
J. A. de Carvalho	...	...	...	1
C. M. P. Remedios	...	...	...	1
R. R. Roberts	...	...	...	1
J. M. S. Alves	...	...	...	1
A. M. P. Remedios	...	...	...	1
E. H. d'Aquino	...	...	...	1
J. M. P. Silva	...	...	...	1
J. J. Monteiro	...	...	...	1
E. J. Figueiredo	...	...	...	1
F. M. de Graca	...	...	...	1
C. Danenberg	...	...	...	1
C. E. Osmund	...	...	...	1
L. F. Leon	...	...	...	1
H. Hyndman	...	...	...	1
D. A. Cordeiro	...	...	...	1
G. dos Remedios	...	...	...	1

£50 & \$21,745.20

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING, WEAVING, AND DYEING CO., LIMITED.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

On Saturday, 22nd inst., at noon, an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders in the above company was held at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co.). The Hon. J. J. Keswick presided, and there were also present Hon. C. P. Chater, Hon. R. M. Gray, and Mr. A. Haupt (Directors), Messrs J. McKie (Secretary), A. Shaw (Manager), T. S. Forrest, J. Y. V. Vernon, E. J. Elias, A. Hee, Ho U Shang, Chan Chan Nam, Sui Woon, and Chan Kee.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, at the extraordinary meeting of shareholders held on 10th November I concluded my remarks by intimating that, while it was a step I should take with the very greatest reluctance, there appeared absolutely no solution of this company's troubles but to liquidate, and it was then determined to follow the usual procedure to do so. In the meantime, a slightly improved demand for yarn led the General Agents to hope that perhaps by not precipitating matters an improvement in the outlook generally might set in, which would enable them to avoid liquidation and thus safeguard the shareholders' interests. Time will show whether the step was a wise one or not, and in the meanwhile we must just hope that it will prove to have been so, although, of course, there is great uncertainty. While we do not doubt that we are meeting the wishes of shareholders in thus acting, it means that we have to carry a very considerable quantity of yarn sold and undelivered, and unsold, also to provide for the cost of cotton supplies, and in order to conform with our Articles of Association we require increased borrowing-powers, and it is for that purpose that this extraordinary general meeting

has been called to consider the resolution which I now propose:—

"That the following section be substituted for Section 2 of Article XVI., namely:—'2 The General Managers may from time to time advance and lend for the purposes of the company such monies as they may think necessary or desirable, at such rate of interest, and upon such terms as they may think fit, but so that the total amount for the time being so advanced and lent shall not at any one time exceed the sum of two millions of dollars. All advances and loans which up to the date hereof have been made by the General Managers for the purposes of the company a.e hereby agreed to and confirmed, and shall be deemed to be, and shall be part of and included in the said sum of two millions of dollars, and as security for the said sum of two millions of dollars and every part thereof the General Managers may from time to time mortgage or charge all or any or either or any parts or part of the company's property, lands, stock-in-trade, machinery, goods, chattels and effects.'"

Mr. VERNON seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—There is nothing further to put before you to-day, but another meeting will be called to confirm the resolution which you have just passed, of which due notice will, of course, be given.

HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAM- WAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting in connection with the above company was held at the offices, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, on Thursday at noon. Mr. Hart Buck presided, and there were also present Messrs. R. K. Leigh, C. Ewins, C. W. Dickson (Consulting Committee), H. Humphreys, A. H. Mancell, W. A. Cruickshank, T. F. Hough, G. Murray Bain, J. A. Tarrant, and W. C. Taylor (Secretary).

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and statement of accounts having been in your hands for several days, I will, if you have no objection, take them as read. I am pleased to say we have had a satisfactory year's working, though we must bear in mind that in consequence of the Northern troubles the number of strangers in the colony, both staying and passing through, has been exceptionally large. With reference to the balance sheet, you will note that debentures \$30,000 do not again appear among the liabilities, the whole of the debentures having been paid off on the 30th June last, which accounts for the difference in the profit and loss account of the item under the heading of interest, which stands at \$1,019.30 against \$2,311.52 in the last report. Charges, you will notice, have increased from \$1,861.40 to \$5,208.18/100.

The principal reason for this large increase is that we have paid for the year under review \$2,150 for professional expert opinion on the possibility of remedying any defects existing on the line and for a survey and plans of an entirely new railway taking a slightly different course to our present one, the idea being that if traffic increases we might require a supplementary line of cars. The item maintenance and repairs amounts to \$7,505.33/100 against last year \$10,681.07. This saving has been effected by the better wear of our ropes, which last year with the increased service were wearing very badly. Before moving the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

There being no questions, the report and statement of accounts were adopted, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. MANCELL.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. CRUICKSHANK, Messrs. C. Ewins, R. K. Leigh, and C. W. Dickson were re-elected members of the Consulting Committee.

On the motion of Mr. HUMPHREYS, seconded by Mr. TARRANT, Messrs. F. Henderson and W. Hutton Potts were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow at ten o'clock. Thank you for your attendance.

PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

On Monday, 24th inst., at noon, an extraordinary general meeting of members in the above company was held for the purpose of submitting for confirmation as special resolutions the resolutions passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on the 8th December. The chair was occupied by Mr. D. Gillies. There were also present Messrs. Thomas Howard, R. C. Wilcox (directors), W. H. Gaskell (secretary), E. Edulji, Ellis Kelly, M. H. Michael, S. J. Michael, J. H. Cox, etc.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the only business before the meeting is to confirm the resolutions passed at the meeting held on the 8th December last. I will now read the resolutions. They are as follows:—

1. That the capital of the company be increased by the creation and issue of 60,000 new ordinary shares of \$10 each, with the sum of \$8 paid up on each, and that the directors be empowered and authorised to accept surrenders of the present 60,000 ordinary shares of the company of \$8 each on which the sum of \$8 each has been paid up, and that one new share of \$10, with the sum of \$8 paid up thereon, be given in lieu of and in exchange for each old share of \$8 fully paid up, and that thereupon the said old shares be cancelled.

2. That of the remaining \$2 payable in respect of each of the new shares, the sum of \$1 be paid on the surrender of the old share, and that the residue be (if necessary) called up and paid at such times and in such instalments as the Board may determine.

Those are the resolutions which have to be confirmed at this meeting. I propose that they be confirmed, and shall be glad if any shareholder present will second the proposition.

Mr. KELLY seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I have to thank you for your attendance.

JELEBU MINING AND TRADING COMPANY.

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTORS.

We have been supplied with the following, relating to the Jelebu Mining and Trading Co.:—

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE JELEBU MINING AND TRADING CO., LTD.

In anticipation of the meeting called for the 15th instant, the directors beg to give the following information:

As will have been seen from the last half-yearly report, the company's finances were then already somewhat strained. The directors, however, did not think it necessary at that time to propose raising fresh capital, believing that returns from the additional 10 head of stamps would soon put matters right. However, through a delay in erecting the new battery, the working capital of the company has become exhausted. The following figures may be of interest:—

Irrespective of the value of the property and the advances of about \$10,000 to miners (which may be considered quite safe), the following is approximately the position to-day:

The indebtedness of the company with the agents, bankers, and various creditors amounts to \$49,000; to which must be added directors' fees in arrear \$1,837, and payment orders outstanding \$2,278; total \$53,115.

Against which there is ore in stock in Singapore value about \$20,000, and ore to arrive value about \$21,000—\$41,000; leaving a deficiency of about \$12,115.

The issue of the preference shares has the object of providing for this deficiency and also for a moderate amount of fresh working capital. A copy of a letter of the General Manager, dated 5th December, is attached herewith. The missing parts of the Frue Vanners referred to therein left Melbourne on the 20th November, and are due in Singapore in about a fortnight.

As soon as the new battery is in work, the Mining Manager estimates the returns at, at least, 17 tons of ore per month. This, on the

basis of the price of tin at \$66, after deducting impurities, smelting charges, duty, &c., will yield about \$8,900, against an estimated expenditure and writing off for depreciations, etc., of about \$6,600, showing an estimated profit of about \$2,300 per month, or \$27,500 per annum; to which would have to be added the net profit on alluvial mining, say, per annum, \$15,000—total \$42,500.

There is no reason why the profit should not be considerably increased later on by erecting one or several more batteries. However, even on the above basis, the following dividend could be paid, viz:—

Estimated profit per annum \$42,500
Less 7 per cent. on \$45,000 pref. shares 3,150

Leaving an annual profit \$39,350

which, distributed over \$270,000 (\$225,000 present capital, plus \$45,000 new capital to be now issued), would mean that the preference shareholders would get a total dividend of about 22 per cent., and the ordinary shareholders a dividend of about 15 per cent.

The directors confidently expect that the preference shares will be taken up by the present shareholders, who, as there are no debentures, will practically have the whole company's assets and property as security. We have still to add that the directors will offer the new shares at par to existing shareholders, so far as they are accessible, in proportion to their holdings, viz. one preference share to the holder of 5 ordinary shares. Of the \$50,000 it is intended to issue only \$45,000; the remaining \$5,000 will only be issued if and when authorised by the shareholders in general meeting.

By order of the Board.

HUTTENBACH BROS & Co.,
General Agents.

Singapore, 10th December, 1900.

Singapore, 5th December, 1900.

Messrs. Huttenbach Bros. & Co.,

Singapore.

Dear Sirs,—As you are aware the extra 10 head of stamps have been erected some time ago and we are now only waiting for the arrival from Australia, of the missing parts for the Frue Vanners.

When they reach us we will immediately proceed with the erection of the Vanners, and we hope to be able, within one month of arrival of the missing parts, to start crushing with the 20 head.

The Mine Manager estimates that we shall get 17 tons of tin ore per month; he expects more, but gives this as a low estimate.

The Mine Manager assures me that he has sufficient stone in sight from the new workings to keep 20 head of stamps going for one year, without sinking, and I think you will find the late Mine Manager estimated that he had sufficient stone in sight in the old workings to keep us going for about four to five years.

We intend to immediately start sinking on the Glamie lode, as the Mine Manager is of opinion that this will prove to be one of our best lodes. We will then have two distinct mines to keep us supplied. Lately we have been getting a large percentage of ore from the stone and it also assays much better as we are getting less Wolfram from the Glamie lode, and there is every prospect of the stone improving as we sink to a deeper level.

Our arsenical chambers are now completed, and in use, and we hope to make some profit by the sale of arsenic.

The working expenses including depreciation for 10 head of stamps amounts to, say, \$4,500 per month; and as far as I can judge at present about \$6,600 should cover the expenses for working 20 head of stamps.

In addition to the profit from the lode we have the alluvial business, which generally gives us a net profit of about \$15,000 per annum.

The Mine Manager is now of opinion that we have overcome most of our troubles, and when the 20 head of stamps are in full working order we ought to make a very fair monthly profit.

Yours faithfully,

The Jebeu Mining & Trading Co. L'd.

JOHN GARDNER,

General Manager

THE GENERAL AGENTS RESIGN.

We have also been provided with the following copy of a letter sent by the General Agents of the Jebeu Mining and Trading Company:—
17th December, 1900.

To the Chairman and Directors of the Jebeu Mining and Trading Company, Limited.

(Present.)

Dear Sirs,—We herewith beg to tender our resignation as General Agents of the Company.

As is well known to you, an agitation has lately started against us and although we think it emanates from a quarter where the shares are not held as a *bona fide* investment but more for speculative purposes, yet we are not inclined to retain an agency when we are constantly harassed.

Unless Company-wreckers should get the upper hand, we consider the prospects of the Company very encouraging and it would only be fair if, after we have stood by the Company in trouble some time, during which we have frequently given them financial assistance to a large extent, we should now also be allowed to reap the benefit of the good times.

Without wishing to blow our own trumpet we are also of opinion that having been connected with the Company for such a long time and knowing all the details of the business, it will be difficult for the Company to find Agents who will attend to the interests of the shareholders as well as or better than ourselves.

As we have this conviction we naturally feel sorry, not only for ourselves but also for the shareholders, that self-respect should compel us to take the above decision. We are inclined to think that the majority of shareholders are reasonable and differ from the noisy members of the Company, who have induced us to offer our resignation. We even think that if we were to take the trouble of asking for proxies, we would command the majority of votes. We do not, however, consider it compatible with our dignity to canvass for ourselves.

We beg to add, however, if at any time the shareholders of their own accord ask us at a general meeting to resume the agency again we shall do so, but as stated the necessary action, action would have to be taken by the shareholders themselves, as we shall not move in the matter.

The Company owes us to-day about \$3,500—to which will have to be added the amount which we shall have to pay the Company's Bankers and which was advanced against our personal guarantee, viz. \$10,000.

We think that legally we would perhaps be entitled to insist on the above indebtedness being squared before we hand over the Agency, but being desirous of facilitating matters as much as possible we shall not insist on this, although we hope that, in all decency, the new Agents will of their own accord pay us the above amount before they assume the Agency.

There are some lots of tin due here shortly which we think we could also legally have appropriated against the Company's debits to us, but in this respect also we wish to facilitate matters and have therefore not taken any steps to deal with this tin.

We must finally express once more our regret that we should have been constrained to resign. We are afraid our resignation places the Directors in a somewhat awkward position which we need hardly assure you we very much regret. There are payment orders outstanding for \$3,700 which ought to be paid by the new Agents *at once*, or otherwise the Company's credit may suffer.

Fresh working capital will also have to be provided or all operations at the mines may come to a complete standstill. We do not know whether the shareholders who stirred up the agitation wished for such a state of affairs. Anyhow they are responsible for it, as without the agitation we would probably have continued to use our own funds for the Company's benefit, as we have done in the past.

Wishing the Company all success in the future and thanking you for the confidence which you have always shown us and which made it a pleasure for us to act as agents,

We remain, dear Sirs,

Yours faithfully,

HUTTENBACH BROS. & Co.

THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LD. (IN LIQUIDATION.)

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the meeting to be held at the office of the company, No. 14, Des Vœux Road Central, Hongkong, to-day, at 11.45 a.m.

To the Shareholders of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Company, Limited (in liquidation).

Gentlemen,—I beg to submit herewith to the shareholders a final statement of accounts as they stand in the books, which have now been transferred to the new company. I see no necessity for dealing with any of the accounts, as the new company has taken over the old one as a going concern, and all the balances appearing in to-day's statement have been transferred to the new company and will be duly explained by the latter.

The holders of 7,282 ordinary shares and 5,500 preference shares did not claim the respective amount of shares they were entitled to in the new company. A sale of the shares having been found impracticable, the new company is at liberty to deal with these unallotted shares as they may see fit.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin.

LEOPOLD LAMBOTTE,
Liquidator.

Hongkong, 22nd December, 1900.

BALANCE-SHEET.

ASSETS.

To property—	
Cost of estate and building	\$132,255.85
Union Bank of Sydney	2,953.93
" Cash	207.53
" Furniture	2,811.98
" Live stock (horses)	512.42
" Machinery, plant and tools	80,263.94
" Mine stores	9,156.34
" Great Eastern main shaft	9,470.90
" Caledonian main shaft	12,950.70
" Zulu main shaft	14,047.17
" Prospecting shaft	4,416.69
" Old Great Eastern drive	681.78
" Rise and shine shaft	5,947.25
" Bank of England shaft	10,629.40
" Dam	3,898.06
" Balance (transferred to new Co.)	115,927.21
	\$406,131.15

LIABILITIES.

By capital—Shares	
18,200 fully paid up at \$5.00 ..	\$91,000.00
51,800 half paid up at \$2.50 ..	129,500.00
51,750 first call at \$1.00	51,750.00
51,738 second call at \$1.50	77,607.00
54,901 preference shares at \$1.00	54,901.00
	\$404,758.00
" Hongkong and Shanghai Banking corporation current account	1,373.15
	\$406,131.15

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.	\$	c.
To balance brought over	25,893.77	
" Charges		
Sundries	\$2,103.52	
General agents	3,000.00	
Directors' fees	1,500.00	
Liquidators' fees	500.00	
Auditors'	150.00	
	7,253.52	
" Legal expenses	175.01	
" Travelling expenses	1,150.23	
" Printing and stationery	477.36	
" Telegrams	966.17	
" Wages and salaries	15,958.18	
" Crown rent	1,051.93	
" Office charges	847.01	
" Fuel	4,487.08	
" Mine charges	7,819.47	
" Repairs	2,084.23	
" Fire insurance	927.14	
" Drilling Caledonian shaft	3,000.51	
" Zulu shaft	7,541.81	
" Great Eastern shaft	3,376.63	
" Development bank of England shaft ..	7,357.43	
" Rise and shine shaft	3,396.06	
" Zulu shaft	8,718.09	
" Caledonian shaft	2,938.78	
" Stopping Great Eastern shaft	5,524.25	
" Zulu shaft	8,278.78	
" Bank of England shaft	3,210.71	
" Raising stone	2,003.65	
" Carting quartz	1,477.12	
" Great Eastern air shaft	1,469.40	
" Battery wages	6,672.27	
" Battery sundries	769.57	
	\$130,721.15	

	Cr.	\$	c.
By gold account		13	82.90
Interest		736	98
Exchange		124	06
Proceeds of 100 half paid up shares forfeited		250	00
Balance		115,927	21
		\$130,721	15

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. V. ROYAL NAVY.

Though the Naval men were not at full strength, they took on the rest of the Club with characteristic pluck on the 21st and 22nd inst. The Club were left victorious by 71 runs after a keen and interesting game. On the Club side Wall fielded brilliantly all through and Higgon bowled with much judgment and success, taking in all eleven wickets for 122, whilst Smith had 5 wickets for 83 and aided in keeping down the runs. Appended are the score and analysis:—

THE CLUB.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Captain Ainslie, 3rd M.L.I., b Thurston	55	T. Sercombe Smith, c and b Thurston	42	F. Maitland, c Legard, b Thurston	14
Capt. Wall, I.M.S., c Mayhew, b Thurston	8	R. B. Johnson, R.W.F., c Mayhew, b Salter	2	R. D. Anderson, c Ross, b Salter	1
E. Mast, c Strong, b Thurston	23	Capt. Doughty, R.W.F., c Thurston, b Salter	16	A. Mackenzie, c Salter, b Thurston	0
J. A. Higgon, R.W.F., not out	4	G. H. Gwyther, R.W.F., not out	0	Extras	17
Total	182	Total (4 wks.)	144		

THE NAVY.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Lieut. Orton, R.N., c Wall, b Higgon	28	Mr. Gibson, R.N., b Higgon	4	Lieut. Legard, R.N., run out	1
Lieut. Strong, R.M.L.I., b Higgon	13	Mr. Franklin, R.N., b Smith	23	Lt. Mayhew, R.M.L.I., c Doughty, b Higgon	12
Mr. Salter, c Johnson, b Smith	7	Lieut. Ross, R.N., b Higgon	6	Mr. Thurston, R.N., not out	1
Rev. E. Good, R.N., c Smith, b Higgon	0	Lt. Phillbrick, R.N., c Gwyther, b Smith	3	Extras	2
Total	100	Total	156		

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

THE CLUB.								
First Innings.					Second Innings.			
	O.	M.	R.	w.	O.	M.	R.	w.
Salter	13.2	1	53	3	5.2	0	24	1
Franklin	9	2	31	0	2	0	23	0
Strong	9	1	31	1	7	0	35	1
Thurston	15.2	0	47	6	10	1	52	2
Gibson	3	1	3	0	—	—	—	—

THE NAVY.									
First Innings.					Second Innings.				
Sercombe Smith	22.2	11	42	3	11	2	41	2	
Higgon	22	5	56	6	16.3	2	66	5	
Ainslie	—	—	—	—	3	0	19	1	
Mackenzie	—	—	—	—	8	1	26	1	

H.K.C.C. V. UNITED SERVICES.

This match commenced on the 24th inst., was continued on Christmas Day, and concluded on the 26th inst., when the United Services secured a victory by eight wickets. The bowling of Franklin and Higgon proved too much for the Club batsmen, few of whom made much show. Score and analysis:—

THE CLUB.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
F. Maitland, st Johnson, b Franklin	16	T. Sercombe Smith, b Franklin	23	G. F. Noble, b Franklin	0
c Dyson, b Franklin	11				

R. D. Anderson, b Higgon	2	c Higgon, b Franklin	0
E. Mast, b Higgon	24	st Johnson, b Franklin	0
J. A. Woodgates, st Strong, b Higgon	14	b Higgon	9
K. W. Mounsey, b Higgon	12	c Johnson, b Franklin	10
A. Mackenzie, run out	22	c Johnson, b Franklin	10
J. E. Lee, b Higgon	4	b Franklin	0
A. R. Lowe, not out	1	b Strong	2
J. Hooper, st Kriekenbeek, b Higgon	1	not out	28
Extras	0	Extras	1
Total	124	Total	82

UNITED SERVICES.

First Innings.		Second Innings.	
Capt. Ainslie, 3rd M.L.I., b Woodgates	0	c and b Sercombe Smith	0
Lieut. Strong, R.M.L.I., b Woodgates	19	not out	56
Lt. Kriekenbeek, 22nd B.I., b Sercombe Smith	2		
Lt. Mayhew, R.M.L.I., run out	17	not out	23
Capt. Wall, I.M.S., b Woodgates	0	b Woodgates	3
Mr. Franklin, R.N., c Woodgates, b Smith	22		
Major Dyson, A.P.D., c and b Smith	19		
Lt. Johnson, R.W.F., b Woodgates	4		
Capt. Doughty, R.W.F., b Sercombe Smith	6		
Lt. Higgon, R.W.F., b Sercombe Smith	0		
Mr. Thurston, R.N., not out	0		
Extras	26	Extras	10
Total	115	Total (2 wks.)	92

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

THE CLUB.								
	First Innings.				Second Innings.			
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Higgon	13.3	4	49	6	12	3	22	1
Franklin	13	1	75	3	13.3	4	53	8
Strong	—	—	—	—	2	1	6	1

UNITED SERVICES.

First Innings.					Second Innings.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.	
Sercombe Smith	19.3	8	24	5	12.4	3	37	1	
Woodgates	16	4	38	4	9	3	43	1	
Lee	1	0	13	0	—	—	—	—	
Lowe	5	2	13	0	3	2	2	0	
Mackenzie	2	1	1	0	—	—	—	—	

LIEUT. STRONG'S TEAM V. MR. FRANKLIN'S TEAM.

In view of the early conclusion of the big match, a game was played between sides captained by Lieut. Strong and Mr. Franklin, which was won by the former team with a lot to spare. Score and analysis:—

LIEUT. STRONG'S TEAM.		MR. FRANKLIN'S TEAM.	
Lieut. Kriekenbeek, 22 B., c Franklin, b Higgon	3	Lieut. Strong, R.M.L.I., b Higgon	6
Capt. Ainslie, 3 M.L.I., c and b Higgon	11	H. Hancock, not out	123
Mr. Thurston, R.N., b Franklin	5	K. W. Mounsey, c No. 5 Coolie, b Franklin	15
J. Hooper, c Mayhew, b Franklin	39	A. R. Lowe	—
Lt. Phillbrick, R.N.	—	T. Sercombe Smith } did not bat	—
Coolie No. 2	—	Coolie No. 3	—
Extras	5		
Total (for 6 wks.)	207		

MR. FRANKLIN'S TEAM.		LIEUT. STRONG'S ELEVEN.	
Lieut. Burke, 22 B., b Strong	6	J. Ross, c Strong, b Hancock	5
Major Dyson, A.P.D., b Strong	28	Lt. Mayhew, R.M.L.I., c Strong, b Hancock	5
Lt. Ross, c Strong, b Hancock	5	Mr. Franklin, R.N., b Strong	2
F. Noble, b Strong	6	Lt. Higgon, R.W.F., c and b Hancock	7
Lt. Lumb, 3 M.L.I., c Thurston, b Smith	48	J. E. Lee, c Kriekenbeek, b Hancock	0
Lt. Ross, R.N., c Coolie No. 4, b Smith	57	Lt. Kirwan, R.N., b Coolie No. 3	6
Coolie No. 5, not out	1	Coolie No. 2, b Coolie No. 3	3
Extras	5		
Total	172		

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

LIEUT. STRONG'S ELEVEN.				
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Higgon	18	4	66	3
Franklin	12.1	2	56	3
J. Ross	10	2	44	0
Coolie No. 5	5	0	36	0

MR. FRANKLIN'S TEAM.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Strong	13	2	49	4
Hancock	10	2	42	4
Kriekenbeek	5	1	23	0
Lowe	2	0	12	0
Coolie No. 3	4.2	0	18	2
Sercombe Smith	4	0	24	2

FOOTBALL.

H.K. A.F.C. V. H.M.S. "TERRIBLE."

This match was played at Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon last, before a good turn-out of spectators. The following were the teams:—
Hongkong. — Goal — Woodgates; backs — Pinckney and Russell; half-backs — Jenkins, Bonnar, and Howard; forwards — Low, Lee, Noble, Tullock (Capt., R. A.), and Clapham (Lieut., R. G. A.)

H.M.S. *Terrible*. — Goal — Chambers; backs — Jones and Butler; half-backs — England, Pushley, and Forbes; forwards — Smith, Pollock, Holden, Danzie, and Clements.

Hongkong set the ball in motion and at the start it became apparent that the bluejackets in play and in weight, were no match for their opponents, who, to speak plainly, "make rings round them." True, the *Terrible* were the first to get away, but their visit to Hongkong territory resulted in the ball being sent wide of the mark. Clapham got a pass from Noble, who secured the ball from the goal-kick, but although he managed to defeat the forwards and half-back, he got flurried when tackled by Jones, and sent in a wide ball. The game was confirmed to the bluejackets' part of the field, and had only lasted five minutes or so when the ground team opened the scoring, Tullock, from a pass from Bonnar, netting the ball. The goal was a soft one, decidedly soft and might have been averted had Chambers not run out to intercept Tullock. He was soon afterwards called upon to save a long shot from home, which he did by conceding a corner that the club failed to convert. Danzie and Clements relieved a rather dangerous pressure and manœuvred well up-field. Jenkins tackled and captured the ball, which he centred, and from a scrimmage at Chambers' goal Tullock was again successful in sending the leather home.

At half time the score stood—Hongkong, 2; *Terrible*, 0.

The second was not marked by any difference in play. Hongkong still continued to press, and Woodgates, so far as work was concerned, had as easy a time of it as the spectators. Twice had the bluejackets to concede a corner to save their goal. On the second occasion one of the backs caught the ball when it was scarcely a couple of yards from the post, slowly but surely rolling in, and sent it over the line. Noble, towards the finish of a rather loose, uninteresting game, scored the third goal for his side. The result at the finish was—Hongkong, 3; *Terrible*, 0.

V.R.C. V. H.M.S. "UNDAUNTED."

In this game the *Undaunted* men had decidedly better luck than that experienced by their comrades from the *Terrible*. They had altogether the best of the play, and by half-time had secured two goals as against the V.R.C.'s one. In the second half the *Undaunted* netted the ball twice, but their opponents did not succeed in adding further points to their score. The result was—*Undaunted*, 4; *Victoria*, 1.

THE CHALLENGE SHIELD COMPETITION.

The draw of the 1st and 2nd rounds is as follows:—

FIRST ROUND.

H. Co. R.W.F. v. F. Co. R.W.F.

SECOND ROUND.

25th Co. E.D. R.A. v. E. Co. R.W.F.

C. Co. R.W.F. v. R.E.

Winner of first round v. A. Co. R.W.F.

38th Co. S.D. R.A. v. H.K.F.C.

H.M.S. *Isis* v. B. Co. R.W.F.

G. Co. R.W.F. v. H.M.S. *Centurion*.

Southern Siege Train v. 25th S.D. R.A.

Victoria Recreation Club v. D. Co. R.W.F.

The first round is to be played on or before the 5th January, 1901.

The second round is to be played on or before the 9th February, 1901.

The first named club in each case is to supply the ball and has the choice of ground. Any tie can be played on the ground of the Hongkong Football Club.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The second race for the Commodore's Cup will take place to-day, as previously announced.

On Sunday a race for two cups presented by the 3rd M. L. I. will be sailed, starting at 12.30 from Blackhead's Pier over a course round Kowloon Rock, Channel Rock, and mark boat off Lyeemun (starboard), dinghy at starting line (port), Kowloon Rock, Meyer's East Buoy (starboard), finishing across the starting line distance, 15 miles.

Handicap.—*Bonito* and *Alannah* allow—*Iris* 1 min., *Meteor* 4 min., *Erica* 3 min., *Maid Marian* 3 min., *Chanticleer* 4 min., *Gloria* 7 min., *Doreen* 7 min., *Active* 8 min., *Dart* 10 min., *Ladybird* 14 min., *Payne* 14 min.

OFFICIAL SALARIES IN HONGKONG.

AN APOLOGY TO THE GOVERNOR.

In its issue of the 23rd November the *London and China Express* says:—

Our attention has been drawn to an article by our Correspondent in Hongkong which appeared in the Supplement of the *London and China Express* of August 3, 1900, under the heading "The Far East Revisited." It was there stated, with reference to an increase in the salaries of the Governor and certain higher officers of the Colony, sanctioned by the Secretary of State as from January 1 last, that although these increases had necessarily to be voted by the Legislative Council they were drawn before such a vote had been passed, and this alleged drawing was censured as an irregularity of a personal and private nature which could not be condoned under the circumstances in which it occurred. We unreservedly accept His Excellency's assurance and that of the Colonial Treasurer, which have been produced to us, that no increased salary was drawn by any official until such increases had been duly voted by the Legislative Council, and we express our sincere regret that the unfounded allegations in question should have been made or allowed to appear in the issue above referred to. We tender to His Excellency our apology for any annoyance caused to or aspersions cast on him by the statements of our correspondent, which he has regarded as a libel on him, necessitating recourse to legal proceedings if allowed to stand uncontradicted.

MR. T. H. WHITEHEAD ON CHINA.

Speaking at a dinner of the Imperial Liberal Council at the Hotel Cecil, London, on 12th ult., the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, said:—

"The foreign trade of China aggregates some £70,000,000 per annum, and the British Empire, including India, shares in this trade to the extent of about 60 per cent. Having lived in the Far East upwards of twenty-six years, I have had a varied experience of China and the Chinese. The recent troubles in China were exceptional and should receive exceptional treatment at the hands of the British Government. The troubles were brought about by the European Powers annexing or stealing Chinese territory. Regarding affairs in the Celestial Kingdom there was no greater living authority than Sir Robert Hart, for many years Inspector General of the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs, and his somewhat remarkable essay, "The Peking Legations, a national uprising and an international episode," in this month's *Fortnightly Review*, is deserving of careful study and every consideration. The China problem is one of the greatest the world has ever had to face, inasmuch as the European Powers have there to cope with about 25 per cent. of the total population of the world. The Chinese are a virile race, amenable to reason and most easily governed if skilfully guided. They can be led but will not be driven. During my residence in Hongkong the British Banking institution I have the honour to represent there has turned over with its Chinese customers commercial transactions aggregating many tens of millions of pounds sterling, and the bank has not lost a penny by any one of its Chinese constituents. It affords me great gratification to thus testify to the commercial solidity, the integrity, and

the financial soundness of the Chinese merchant, trader, and banker. The Chinese believe in and are more friendly disposed to the British than to any other foreign power. With fiscal reform the trade of China is capable of almost immeasurable expansion, and fiscal reform would largely help in the solution of the China problem. In this connection Chinese statesmen would welcome skilful guidance from the British, as they know full well what England has accomplished in bringing about and establishing fiscal reform in Egypt. What is urgently needed in China is another Lord Cromer."

THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

According to Tokyo advices, summing up information possessed by the Japanese at Shanghai, the Diplomatic Corps is still in conference with regard to various items to be demanded of the Chinese peace commissioners. It is reported that the representatives of the Powers have decided to resume hostilities in the event of China failing to comply with the ultimatum of the Powers. Prince Ching and Viceroy Li Hung-chang are not in a position to present any peace terms to the foreign representatives, who have caused the Chinese Commissioners to wait for conditions stipulated by the Allies. Being dissatisfied with this state of affairs, some of the staff of Ching and Li Hung-chang have already left Peking for Shanghai.

Having approved of the peace conditions adopted by the Diplomatic Conference at Peking, the advices continue, the majority of the Governments of the allied Powers have already appointed their representatives to act as peace plenipotentiaries. The power invested in the Foreign Ministers is stated to be limited, as the Governments reserve the right of final decision in important affairs. The Diplomatic Corps has at last acknowledged Prince Ching and Viceroy Li Hung-chang as the Chinese peace ministers vested with plenary powers, but some of the allied Powers have not yet appointed their representatives to negotiate peace with the Chinese Commissioners, and accordingly the formal opening of the peace negotiations will probably not take place till the end of next month.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE GERMAN EXPEDITION.

The official report concerning the German Expeditionary Force to the Far East contains a number of interesting details which are now made known for the first time: 5,579 horses have been procured at the immense cost of £672,899. It was out of the question to send German horses to the Far East through the Red Sea and the tropics during the hottest season of the year, nor could China be reckoned upon to supply a sufficient number of serviceable horses. Arms, ammunition, and field appliances of the newest make were got together. As this material had to be taken from the supplies stored up in case of war, steps will be taken to replace it by April 1, 1901. Only the material for two mountain batteries had to be bought, as it was not comprised in the army stores. The equipment of the force with arms, ammunition, and field appliances had been so well provided for, that no reserve reinforcements will probably be necessary. The food supply sent out with the force is sufficient to meet all demands for some long time, and in any case fresh supplies could be despatched from Germany before the present supplies came to an end. An adequate supply of winter clothing was provided in view of the difficulties of quick transport in China. Both the clothing and general equipment given out to every man were made in view of the special conditions of life on the voyage and also in China. Six field hospitals can accommodate 1,200 men, and tents for the sick, movable barracks, and wood for building barracks have also been taken out, and their use will furnish accommodation for 1,000 men. The hospital stores already in China will meet the wants of 3,000 sick and wounded for four months. The official report shows very clearly that the authorities have taken the greatest possible care in every direction to ensure the comfort of the German troops in China.

HONGKONG.

A new table has been issued of rates of postage for parcels chargeable at the Post Office in the Colony on and after the 1st prox.

The Victoria Recreation Club's premises at Murray Pier will be finally closed on Monday, the 31st instant, when the New Club House in Austin Road, Kowloon, will be opened.

In consequence of the sailing ships *Adolph Oberg* and *Paul Revere* having arrived in harbour several days over their scheduled time, they have both lost what were considered by local shippers to be pretty valuable charters.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, the Hon. Treasurer of the Seamen's Church and Mission Fund, acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following further subscriptions:—

The Rev. R. F. Cobbold, M. A. . . .	\$25.
His Honour Sir John Carrington . . .	\$20.
The Mother Superior of the Italian Convent begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums:—	
Dr. Hartigan	\$50
Yeung Chik Shing	25
Messrs. Levy Hermanos	10
Geo. D. Sharnhorst	5
J. Boyol	5
T. F. da Cruz	5

The service at St. John's Cathedral on Christmas morning was well attended. The edifice had been tastefully decorated from the portal to the chancel and altar-steps with seasonable greenery and ferns. The processional hymn was "Hark the Herald Angels sing," and the Anthem "Awake, O Zion" by Stainer. During the offertory the hymn "O come, all ye faithful" was rendered by the choir. The Lord Bishop of Victoria, the Right Rev. J. C. Hoare, M. A., was the preacher.

The annual Christmas dance of the Hongkong Police was held at No. 8 Station on Tuesday evening, when there was a large attendance. Dancing commenced at nine o'clock, and was kept up with great spirit and enjoyment until the small hours of the morning, Mr. Grant acting as master of ceremonies. Lance-Sergeant Kent acted as secretary, and, with the help of an able committee, carried the proceedings through to a successful close. The ballroom was gaily decorated with bunting and greenery. Inspector and Mrs. Duncan were warmly thanked for their kindness in extending the hospitality of their house for the occasion.

The police are taking active steps to suppress an evil that is developing to a serious extent in the colony—the issuing and passing of bad money, presumably by a gang or gangs of counterfeiters. As matters at present stand, it is an absolute necessity, when one is receiving change, no matter from whom, to examine every coin, especially ten and twenty cent pieces, with a view to testing its genuineness, and even then, so clever are the counterfeiters—differing almost in no essential from good money—the chances are that one is deceived and comes away in possession of the very coins one has been seeking to avoid. However, in view of the attitude of the authorities, there is every reason to hope for an amelioration, if not even the extermination, of this very real evil.

St. Peter's Church was well filled on Christmas morning, when the congregation were treated to a carol selection and a solo from the Messiah "For behold darkness shall cover the earth." Later in the day the church members and their friends entertained the seamen from the various mercantile marine vessels in harbour to a fete at Little Hongkong, where a variety of sports were indulged in. The company left Hongkong in several launches. There were, in all, about 150, including some men from the siege train at Kowloon, the Royal Welsh Fusiliers and blue-jackets from the men-of-war. The programme included tugs of war, throwing the hammer, flat races, &c., and concluded with an all-round seasonable tea. Prizes were subsequently presented to the successful competitors in the various events by Miss Johnston of Fairlee, and Miss Mabel Sheffield, who was introduced as the skipper, opened a deeply-laden sea-chest (which took the place of the annual "Brig") and distributed useful presents to the assembled company. At the close it was testified that the day's entertainment had been one of the most enjoyable which has been held within the history of the church.

We are informed that the Volunteer Ball will be held on Friday, 15th February. Tickets will be available early next week at Headquarters.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum last week included 450 non-Chinese to the former and 309 non-Chinese and 2,543 Chinese to the latter institution.

A fresh case of plague was reported during the 24 hours between noon of the 24th and noon of the 25th inst. This brings the number of cases for the year up to 1,085, while the number of deaths remains at 1,026.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donation to the funds of the Hospitals:—Deutsche Kirchen und Schulgemeinde zu Hongkong, \$7.

The sale of leasehold properties in Ship Street, comprising six lots, advertised in our columns to have taken place on the 22nd inst. in the auction rooms, Duddell Street, by Mr. George P. Lammert, was withdrawn, the properties not fetching the reserve price.

Christmastide with the Hongkong branch of the Missions to Seamen was observed at the Star Coffee House by the manager, Mr. H. C. Ashman, preparing a seasonable dinner for those seamen of the Royal Navy and the sailing ships in harbour who were ashore for the day. Quite a large number partook of the good things provided for them.

At the regular meeting of Victoria Lodge No. 1026 held on the 22nd inst., Wor. Bro. E. C. Ray, Deputy District Grand Master, presided and Installed Bro. F. D. Goddard as Worshipful Master. Wor. Bro. Goddard then invested his officers as follows:—Bros. J. H. Underwood, Senior Warden; R. C. Edwards, Junior Warden; S. H. Joseph, Treasurer; Wor. Bro. A. O'D. Gourdin, Secretary; Bros. E. H. Ray, Senior Deacon; J. J. Woollen, Junior Deacon; Wor. Bro. G. T. Lammert, Organist; Bros. W. M. Everall, Inner Guard; A. S. Tuxford, Steward; F. R. C. Surplice, Director of Ceremonies; J. R. Grimble, Tyler.

We have received from the Colonial Secretary's Office and also from the Netherlands Consulate-General notifications that the Governor-General of Netherlands-India has decreed that all ships or vessels arriving from Hongkong or having called at this port after the 22nd November, 1900, are subject in Netherlands-India to a quarantine of ten days from the date of departure from this port or since the last case of plague on board. Importation is temporarily prohibited of animal refuse, claws and hoofs, animal or human hair and bristles, hides which are untanned and which are salted or cured with arsenic, raw wool and rags, bags or sacks which have already been used, coming from Hongkong or transhipped at this port. The importation is also temporarily prohibited from Hongkong into Netherlands-India of tapestry and used embroideries, unless they are transported as personal baggage or in consequence of change of residence.

Weung Sam, a foreman in the employ of Tung Tak, contractor, carrying on business in this colony, died in the Government Civil Hospital on Monday from the effects of wounds inflicted by robbers in an assault committed upon him in Shatin on the 13th inst. It will be remembered, by the report published in our columns at the time, that the unfortunate man, accompanied by two coolies, was being driven in a ricksha to the outlying district of Shatin, carrying on his person about \$100 in twenty-cent pieces to pay his master's workmen there. At a lonely part of the road the little party was attacked by three robbers, armed with a chopper and bamboo poles. The coolies took to flight, leaving Weung Sam to the mercy of his assailants. A search party found him some time later, bleeding and unconscious, about twenty feet down the hillside. He was conveyed to the Government Civil Hospital, where, as already stated, he died on Monday last. His case from the first was recognised as hopeless. The police have arrested several men in connection with the affair, but, with the exception of one, these have all been liberated, the coolies who accompanied the murdered man being unable to identify any of them. The evidence against the man detained in custody is very slight, the main point apparently being that in his possession were found a few rolls of twenty-cent pieces similar to those carried by the deceased man.

Mr. W. Crake has been appointed Temporary Assistant Marine Surveyor.

Mr. E. F. X. dos Santos Remedios, Civil Engineer, of 31, Wyndham Street, has been elected a member of the Lisbon Geographical Society.

The Star launch *Evening Star* collided with a junk in the harbour on the 21st inst. The junk capsized, but the crew were rescued by police pinnace No. 5. The launch suffered considerable damage.

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., agents for the China Mutual Steam Navigation Co., inform us that they were on the 22nd inst. in receipt of the following telegram from the Agent of the Company at Shanghai:—"Referring to our telegram of December 5th, reconstruction confirmed at a meeting held yesterday."

The Squatters' Board, consisting of Sir John Carrington, C.M.G. (presiding), the Acting Puisne Judge (the Hon. T. Sercombe Smith), and the Hon. R. D. Ormsby, with Mr. Bruce Shepherd as Secretary, met at the Supreme Court on Thursday, when a number of squatters' claims were investigated.

The tie in the first competition of the Hongkong Gun Club (held on the 15th inst.) was fired off on the 22nd inst. The competitors were H.E. Sir Henry A. Blake and Mr. J. A. Mackay, who had each scored 15 points. The tie resulted in favour of Mr. Mackay, who scored 13 to His Excellency's 9. The prizes were presented by Lady Blake after the decision of the competition.

At the offices of the Public Works Department on Thursday afternoon Mr. G. J. W. King offered for public competition two lots of Crown land situate at Fuk Tsun Heung, Kowloon. Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1114, which comprises 4,841 square feet, was sold for \$988 (upset \$968), and Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1115, which comprises 756 square feet, was sold for \$172 (upset \$152). Li Ping and Li Chung Sien were the purchasers.

Mr. J. D. Clark, the founder and editor of the *Shanghai Mercury*, was a passenger for Shanghai by the *Chusan*, which left Hongkong on the 24th inst. He is returning from a holiday trip to America and Europe, and, though he has been forty years in China, is looking forward to resuming his editorial duties. He has purchased new plant, type, and machinery, so we may anticipate an all-round improvement in our northern contemporary.

At the opening of the Blake Pier it was stated that it was proposed to erect a clock-tower on the base of the pier and a roof and shelter for passengers. In the *Gazette* of Saturday last particulars and conditions are published of a competition for these additions to the pier. It will be seen that the tower is to be erected in the centre of the pier's base, and is to be at least 120 feet high. It will contain ladies' and men's waiting rooms. The roof is to extend over the first two sets of steps at each side of the pier. An attendant will live in the tower, which must be designed to take the clock of our existing tower.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It is reported at Penang that the Acting Governor has recommended to the Secretary of State an increase of 15 per cent. on the salaries of the Straits Settlements clerical service.

A Seoul despatch states that the Korean Government has engaged a German bandmaster at a salary of 300 yen a month to teach the military bands. He gave his first lesson on the 17th inst. to the band of the Imperial Bodyguard at Seoul.

The *Tatung*, which arrived at Shanghai from Yangtze ports at the end of last week, reported H.M.S. *Daphne*, the German *Illia* and two French gunboats at Hankow. H.M.S. *Redpole* at Kiukiang. H.M.S. *Linnel* at Wuhu. H.M.S. *Hermione* and a German cruiser at Nanking, and H.M.S. *Pique* at Chinkiang.

We have received the programme of the Amoy Race Club Meeting on the 10th, 11th, and 12th prox. Six races are on the list for each day, the chief attraction being the Amoy Stakes on the first day and the Champion Stakes on the third. The entries include *Wizard*, *Thistle*, *Tocsin*, *Bewitchment*, and *Sis-ho*, representing Messrs. R. B. Johnson, Rounsaville Wildman, and (the last three) G. Hutton Potts.

Yu Taotai, before leaving Shanghai, has contributed \$300 to the Chinese Young Men's Christian Association. A foreign resident at Shanghai has subscribed over \$800 to the same Association.

The Admiralty announces that the following additional promotions for services in China have been made, to date Nov. 9, 1900:—Lieutenant William B. S. Wrey, to be Commander; Assistant-Paymaster Harry G. Wilson, to be Paymaster.

The French regiment which was stated in these columns a short time ago to have been held in readiness at Haiphong to occupy Canton in case of need, has received countermanding orders. The expense of keeping these troops on a war-footing with steamers waiting is set at 70,000 francs.

The new telegraph line from Taku to Tientsin was opened on the 20th inst. It is in connection with the neutral cable from Shanghai to Taku, and the old rates for messages will now be restored. This line will shortly be extended to Peking, and thence overland to Kiakhta, giving an independent alternative route to Europe. Possibly when this is built, says the *N.-C. Daily News*, we may hope that the long-deferred reduction in rates to Europe and America will become a tangible reality.

The Russian Ministry of Marine has announced that for the purpose of increasing the strength of the torpedo flotilla belonging to the Russian Pacific Squadron, twelve new torpedo-boats will be sent out next year to the Far East. These boats will be sent out in sections, which will be put together at Vladivostok and Port Arthur, and they will not be counted among the torpedo-boats at present being built for Russia, which the Ministry of Marine has expressed its intention of sending out to the Far East under steam. A credit vote of \$18,000 roubles will be made to cover the cost of building these twelve projected torpedo-boats.

The Secretary of State has sanctioned the addition of 504 horses to the establishment of Artillery in India to be distributed in the proportion of 22 additional horses to each of the six R. H. A. and 21 to each of the R. F. A. batteries. Three hundred will be purchased this year at an estimated cost of two and three quarter lakhs of rupees, and the remainder next year. The recruitment of one hundred men per Infantry Battalion in China is sanctioned, also ten per cent. on the peace strength of cavalry regiments and sapper companies, the estimated cost being two lakhs initial and ½ lakh recurring.

A general impression exists, says a home contemporary, that Mr. Basil J. D. Guy, the gallant young midshipman of H.M.S. *Barfleur* who has just been awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery at Tientsin, is the first naval officer of this rank to be thus honoured. This, however, is by no means the case, for at least two instances of midshipmen earning the same proud distinction are on record. The first of these is that of Mr. E. J. Daniels, who was granted the V.C. for an act of great courage performed under fire during the Crimean campaign. In 1864 a second midshipman, Mr. G. D. Boyes, of H.M.S. *Euryalus*, won a similar honour while on active service in Japan. Both of these young officers died before they rose to the rank for which their gallantry fitted them.

The efforts being made by the Vatican to obtain from China a special indemnity for the missionaries massacred has, states a Rome correspondent, again raised the question of the protectorate over Roman Catholics in the Near and Far East. Li Hung-chang is reported to have replied to the Vatican that the murdered missionaries belonged to different nationalities, and would be included in the indemnities demanded from China by their respective Governments. This reply did not suit the Vatican, which thinks it sees in the Chinese conflict a chance of asserting its existence as a Temporal Power and which is never disposed to regard Italian priests as subjects of the King of Italy. With the help of France it intends to press its claim. It is doubtful if Germany, who not long ago declared a German protectorate over German missionaries and Roman Catholics in the Levant and in China, will associate herself with the Franco-Vatican claims, or whether she will not rather support her ally Italy in upholding the principle of national protectorates.—*L. & O. Express*.

The Tientsin Amateur Dramatic Club is preparing to perform Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.

The *Straits Times* of the 17th inst. reports the cholera figures to date at Singapore to be 192 cases and 164 deaths.

A football match played at Singapore on the 11th inst. between teams representing England and Scotland ended in a pointless draw.

Captains C. K. Busher and C. F. L. Mullikin, R.G.A., have arrived in Singapore from India and Hongkong respectively, and have been taken on the strength of the command.

The Russian Government has just ordered all cruisers belonging to the Volunteer Fleet to resume their commercial functions excepting three, which remain attached to the Russian Pacific squadron. Eleven volunteer cruisers, therefore, will recommence commercial voyages. These are now stationed as follows:—Five at Odessa, four en route from China, and two still in the Far East.

A diabolical plot to blow up the U.S.S. *Pam-panga* by inserting cement in her boiler was recently frustrated by a final inspection, says the *Manila Times*. The work had all been performed by native mechanics and it seems improbable that one or two could have prepared the boiler for destruction without the knowledge of the others. To allow such a fiendish plot to pass unpunished is to invite the perpetration of equally or more dangerous crimes adds the *Times*.

The *Straits Times* records the termination of the championship tournament at the Singapore Chess Club, and says:—Craig wins the championship with 7½ points, the highest possible being 9, Miles coming next with 7 points. Speaking from a general point of view, the result is very satisfactory, as it breaks up the monotony of one player winning every time. Craig is to be congratulated on his success, which it would be foolish to attribute to luck only, the true explanation of it being hard work and hard study of the intricacies of the game.

The following list of all the performing members of Pollard's Lilliputian Opera Co., which opens at the Theatre on the 9th prox., will be of interest:—Alice Bennetto, Lily Thompson, Ivy Trott, Irene Goulding, Bella Thompson, Edie Prebble, Emma Thomas, Alice Turner, May Thorn, Myrtle Trott, May Topping, Florrie Sharpe, Lucy Magill, Kate Twilight, Ethel Bennetto, Ethel Fraser, Connie Prebble, Sadie Farrell, Daphne Trott, May Chester, Madge Williams, Agnes Turner, Minnie Topping, Ruby Moore, Harold Hill, Willie Pollard, George Moore, Willie Thomas, Fred Stewart, and John Murphy.

Sir John Murray, the scientist, arrived at Singapore on the 9th inst. from Christmas Island. Sir John, who is chairman of the Christmas Island Phosphate Co., was one of the naturalists who took part in the *Challenger* expedition in 1872-76, which undertook the exploration of the physical and biological conditions of the great ocean basins. On the return of the expedition he was appointed first assistant of the staff charged with publishing the scientific results of the expedition. He has since taken part in several deep sea exploring expeditions, and is author of many scientific works. He was made a K.C.B. in 1898, and he has half-a-dozen other titles after his name, including that rare distinction, the Prussian Order Pour le Mérite.

The *Universal Gazette* claims to have news to the effect that rebellion in Kansu is well under way. It is said that 45,000 Mohammedans have raised the standard and declared definitely against the Manchu Dynasty. This, if true, may be what is forcing the Court to leave Shensi. The *Gazette* does not give the source of its information, but it also states that a message for Hsianfu has been received by Chang Chih-tung, telling him that owing to the scarcity of food in Shensi it is impossible for the Court to remain there, and that they accordingly propose to remove to Hupeh. In decision is expressed as to whether Wuchang or Kingchow is the more suitable locality, and Viceroy Chang is instructed to make careful investigation and report at once.

The *N.-C. Daily News* Weihaiwei correspondent writes thus of the beginning of winter at that port. On the night of the 7th, and on the following day, he says, snow fell to a depth of two feet full, the heaviest fall remembered since the 14th year of Kwang Hsi. [This was succeeded by a rise in temperature, and it has been thawing over since. What with the pirates preventing the arrival of grain, and so enhancing the price of the meagre stock held locally, and the snow making the roads impassable to sellers of firewood and straw, the natives are not having a rosy time. This is a limited alleviation of their troubles in the work the snow has given to coolies, perhaps, but on the other hand, mason and out-door work generally may have to cease any day. The severer frost cannot be long delayed now, the season for the poor to suffer has set in.]

COMMERCIAL.

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 28th December.—There have been no fresh supplies. No sales.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 28th December.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.15 to \$8.20	pel.
do. " 2, White.....	7.13 to 7.17	"
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.20 to 5.25	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.10 to 5.20	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.05 to 8.15	"
do. " 1, White.....	7.05 to 7.10	"
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	5.15 to 5.20	"
do. " 2, Brown	5.05 to 5.10	"
Foochow Sugar Candy	11.95 to 12.00	"
Shekloong "	10.55 to 10.60	"

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 28th December.—Small parcels of New Cotton arrived, and was placed at \$24 to \$24½. Old at \$22 to \$23. Stock, about 1,000 bales. Bombay, 20.00 to 23.00 picul Bengal (New), Rangoon, } 23.00 to 24.50 " and Dacca, } Shanghai and Japanese, ... 23.00 to 24.50 " Tunchow and Ningpo, ... 23.00 to 24.50 " Sale: 800 bales.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 28th December.—No demands having come from the mainland, the prices are consequently going downward. Quotations are:—Saigon, Ordinary..... \$2.80 to 2.85 " Round, Good quality 2.95 to 3.00 " Long 3.23 to 3.27 Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.90 to 2.95 " Garden, " No. 1 3.25 to 3.30 " White..... 3.85 to 3.90 " Fine Cargo 4.15 to 4.23

COALS.

HONGKONG, 28th December.—Small sales of Japanese at quotations:—Cardiff..... \$30.00 sellers ex ship to arrive Australian \$14.00 to \$14.50 ex godown, nominal Yubari Lump..... \$11.00 ex godown, nominal Miiki Lump \$9.50 nominal Moji Lump \$7.00 to \$9.50 ex ship, steady Hongay 'double' } 10.50 ex godown screened } Hongay Lump..... 8.50 ex ship } nominal. Hongay Dust..... 5.50 " } Briquettes..... 14.50 ex godown }

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 28th December.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn: 1,250 bales No. 10 at \$84 to \$99, 550 bales No. 12

at \$90 to \$94, 250 bales No. 16 at \$93 to \$98, 1,050 bales No. 20 at \$96.50 to \$105. Grey Shirtings: 1,500 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Peach at \$3.50, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. 3 Dogs at \$3.67½, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$3.00, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$3.00. White Shirtings: 205 pieces 600 at \$5.25, 150 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.55, 500 pieces 3 at \$4.07½, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.55, 500 pieces 600 at \$5.20, 500 pieces 800 at \$4.12½, 1,000 pieces 600 at \$5.25, 500 pieces 800 at \$4.12½, 500 pieces Flower at \$5.55, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$7.55, 500 pieces D 70 at \$4.25, 250 pieces Blue Steamer at \$5.07½. White Irishes: 250 pieces Gold Stag at \$5.60, 500 pieces Gold Horse at \$5.30, 250 pieces Gold Horse at \$5.30, Mexicans: 600 pieces 36 XX at \$3.35, 750 pieces 32 Cobbler at \$2.82½, 1,500 pieces 32 Red Stag at \$2.80, 600 pieces 36 at \$3.10, 600 pieces 36 VV at \$3.30, 600 pieces XX at \$3.35. Raw Cotton: 50 bales Shanghai at \$24.25, 50 bales Ningpo at \$24.50.

COTTON YARN—

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.....	\$76.00 to \$109.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....	114.00 to 120.00
" 22 to 24.....	120.00 to 128.00
" 28 to 32.....	136.00 to 142.00
" 38 to 42.....	155.00 to 170.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.15 to 2.25
7 lbs.	2.40 to 2.55
8.4 lbs.	2.00 to 3.60
9 to 10 lbs.	3.70 to 4.50
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.60 to 2.80
58 to 60 "	3.25 to 4.05
64 to 66 "	4.30 to 5.55
Fine.....	5.20 to 7.90
Book-folds.....	4.40 to 6.30
Victoria Lawns—12 yards.....	0.78 to 1.60
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.....	1.75 to 1.90
7lbs. (32 ").....	2.00 to 2.25
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.....	1.95 to 2.20
7lbs. (32 "), ".....	2.85 to 3.70
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.).....	2.90 to 3.60
Drills, English—40yds., 14 to }	4.25 to 7.10
16 lbs.	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to }	1.55 to 5.00
8 lbs }	
Brocades—Dyed	— to —
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.17
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.22½ to 0.60
Velveteens—18 in.	0.20 to 0.22½

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.36 to 2.50

WOOLENS—

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.....	0.80 to 1.50
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.....	1.25 to 2.50
Long Ells—Scarlet.....	6.40 to 10.00
Assorted.....	6.50 to 10.10
Camlets—Assorted.....	12.50 to 32.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches }	8.00 to 20.00
Assorted }	
Orleans—Plain	8.50 to 10.00
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.00 to 18.00

METALS—

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	4.40 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.).....	4.30 to —
Swedish Bar	7.50 to —
Small Round Rod	4.4 to —
Hoop ½ to 1½ in.	5.00 to —
Wire 15/25.....	8.50 to —
Old Wire Rope.....	2.50 to —
Lead, L. B. & Co. and Holé Chop.....	10.25 to —
Australian	10.00 to —
Yellow Metal—Muntz 14/20 oz.....	40.00 to —
Vivian's 14/20 oz.....	40.00 to —
Elliot's 14/20 oz.....	39.50 to —
Composition Nails	65.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	41.00 to —
Tin	68.00 to —

	per box.
Tin-Plates	6.50 to —
	per cwt. case
Steel ½ to ½	5.50 to —

SUNDRIES—

	per picul
Quicksilver	159.00 to —
	per box
Window Glass.....	5.25 to —
	per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil	2.40 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

FRIDAY, 28th December.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/1
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/1 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.62
Credits, 4 months' sight	2.67 1/2
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	2.13 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	50 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	51 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	155
Bank, on demand	155 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	155
Bank, on demand	155 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	71 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand	2 1/2 p.c. dis.
ON MANILA.—	
On demand	1 p.c. dis.
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand	125 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand	2 p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand	1 p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand	60
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.50
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	49.75
BAR SILVER, per oz.	29 1/2

VERNON & SMYTH'S SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 28th December.—The Christmas holidays have greatly interfered with business, but rates continue firm and in most cases show an improvement.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands at 350, 349 and 348 per cent. premium for cash, and at 363 per cent and 365 per cent. premium for March, closing with sellers at 350 and probably at 349.

MARINE INSURANCES.—No business to report except a sale of Unions at \$245.

FIRE INSURANCES.—No business to report, but Chinas are wanted at \$78 and \$79 cash.

SHIPPING.—Indo-Chinas have been placed at \$97 1/2 and \$99 cash, and at \$99, \$100 and \$101 for January, closing steady at \$96 ex div. paid to-day. Other stocks under this heading, with the exception of Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats, which have fallen to 33 1/2, call for no attention.

REFINERIES.—No business to report, but the market for China Sugars is weak at \$119.

MINING.—With the exception of a few sales of Punjoms and Caledonians at quotations there is nothing to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks ruled very firm in early part of the week, with buyers at \$550 per cent. and no shares obtainable, and later the rate rose to \$560 and \$565 per cent. prem. with sales cash. On time a few small lots have changed hands at \$580 and \$590 per cent. prem. for April delivery and later at \$590 for March. Kowloon Wharfs show a good advance, with sales at \$89, \$90 and \$91, market closing firm at the last rate. Wanchais unchanged.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—With the exception of small sales of Lands at \$18 1/2 cash and an unsatisfied demand forward at a little better than equivalent rates, there is nothing to report under this heading. Lands close steady at \$189.

COTTON MILLS.—Ewos have been dealt in to a small extent at \$42 and \$43, and Hongkongs at the advanced rate of \$21 and \$22.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Watkins have been placed at \$12, \$12.10 and \$12.50, closing steady. Electrics at \$11 1/2. Cements at \$20. Fenwicks at \$55 and Tramways at \$204 cum and \$190 ex dividend.

MEMOS.—Extraordinary General Meeting Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company on 31st inst. General meeting of shareholders Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Company (in Liquidation) on 29th December. Second General Meeting Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co. (Incorporated 1899) on Saturday, 29th December. An Interim dividend of 4 per cent. at ex 2/1 1/2 = \$381.14 paid to-day on account of Indo-China S. N. Co. 1900 account.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	\$362.50, sellers
		350 p. ct. prem. =
		London, £60.
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares		\$27, buyers
B. Shares	£8	\$27, buyers
Four. Shares	£8	\$20.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	\$1 1/2.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$20.
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9 1/2.
China Sugar	\$100	\$119, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 43, s. & buyers
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 35.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 55, buyers
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 325, sellers
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 30, buyers
Hongkong	\$100	\$21 1/2, sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$7, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$55, sales
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$19 1/2, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$50, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$118, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$11 1/2, sales & buys.
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$5 1/2, sales & buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$190, ex div.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$125, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$178, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$91, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$170, sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	565 p. ct. prem. =
China Fire	\$20	\$827 1/2, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$145, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$79, buyers
North-China	\$25	\$50, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$295, sellers
Union	\$50	Tls. 172 1/2, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$1.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$245, sales
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$110, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$189.
West Point Building	\$50	\$11 1/2, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$28.
Minig—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$49, sellers
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$3	\$35, buyers
Do. Preference	\$1	5 cents, sales
Jelebu	\$5	30 cents
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	\$6, sellers
Olivers Mines, A.	\$5	7 cents, sellers
Do. B.	\$5	\$2.
Punjom	\$8	\$14.
Do. Preference	\$1	\$3 1/2, sellers
Raubs	16s. 10d.	\$1, sales & sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6 1/2	\$47.
Oriente Hotel Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$21, buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$82 1/2.
China Mutual Pref.	£10	(\$65, sellers
China Ordinary	£10	\$27, sellers
Do.	£5	\$12, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$12.
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$6. 10s., buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$47, sales & buyers
Shell Transport and		\$33 1/2, buyers
Trading Co.	£1	\$96, ex div.
Star Ferry	\$10	23 5s., s. & sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	(\$18 1/2, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$4 1/2, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$3, sellers
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37 1/2	\$8, sellers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$20.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$37 1/2, buyers
Universal Trading	\$5	\$12 1/2, buyers
Co., Ltd.		\$16, sellers
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra, Limited	\$500	\$5 1/2, buyers
La Commercial, Ltd.	\$500	\$1,500, buyers
Hensiana, Limited	\$100	\$1,000.
La Favorita, Ltd.	\$500	\$100.
		\$700.

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Bengal (str.), Dardanus (str.).
Rhipeus (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.).
FOR LIVERPOOL.—Achilles (str.).
FOR MARSEILLES.—Oceanien (str.), Kamakura Maru (str.).
FOR BREMEN.—Prinz Heinrich (str.).
FOR HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—Sambia (str.), Sibiria (str.), Frieberg (str.), Wittenberg (str.) Silesia (str.).
FOR VICTORIA, B. C.—Victoria (str.), Tartar (str.).
FOR VANCOUVER VIA SHANGHAI.—Empress of China (str.).
FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—Doric (str.), Nippon Maru (str.), China (str.).
FOR NEW YORK.—Hudson (str.), Devonshire (str.), R. Morrow (ship).
FOR AUSTRALIA.—Rosetta Maru (str.), Australian (str.), Taiyuan (str.).
FOR SAN DIEGO.—Bergenhuis (str.).
FOR PORTLAND, O.—Adato (str.), Skarpsno (str.).
FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE, AND COLOMBO.—Mitke Maru (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December—

ARRIVALS.

21, Loksang, British str., from Bangkok.
21, Kanagawa Maru, Jap. str., from London.
22, Chunsang, British str., from Java.
22, Sarpedon, British str., from Liverpool.
22, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.
22, Hue, French str., from Haiphong.
22, Shantung, German str., from Chefoo.
22, Chinkiang, British str., from Canton.
22, Devawongse, German str., from Singapore.
22, Elsa, German str., from Moji.
22, Verona, German str., from Amoy.
23, Anping Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
23, Aragonia, German str., from Shanghai.
23, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
23, Calchas, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Chusan, British str., from Bombay.
23, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
23, Freiburg, German str., from Singapore.
23, Gisela, Austrian str., from Kobe.
23, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
23, Marie Valerie, Austrian str., from Trieste.
23, Taishun, Amr. str., from Shanghai.
23, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
23, Frankfurt, German trspt., from Tsingtau.
23, Sandakan, German str., from Sandakan.
23, Ujina, British trspt., from Shanghai.
23, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
23, Else, German str., from Canton.
24, Britomart, British gunboat, from Canton.
24, Diamante, British str., from Manila.
24, Bafleur, British battleship, from W'wei.
24, Seeadler, German cruiser, from Swatow.
24, Humber, British storeship, from W'haiwei.
24, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
24, Deuteros, German str., from Saigon.
24, Hsieh Ho, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Java, British str., from London.
24, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
24, Sherard Osborn, Brit. str., from Shanghai.
24, Wingang, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Chihli, British str., from Wuhu.
25, Pakling, British transport, from Manila.
25, Daybreak, British str., from Canton.
25, Progress, German str., from Touron.
25, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
25, Glenartney, British str., from Amoy.
25, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
25, Podbielski, German str., from Shanghai.
25, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.
25, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
25, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
25, Glenfalloch, British str., from Straits.
25, Rosetta Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
26, Benclutha, British str., from Shanghai.
26, Manche, French str., from Saigon.
26, Shinano Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
26, Bergenhuis, Norw. str., from Portland.
26, Haiching, British str., from Haiphong.

26, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.
 26, Cassius, German str., from Moji.
 27, Empress of China, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 27, Razboynick, Russian cr., from Nagasaki.
 27, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 27, Chelydra, British str., from Calcutta.
 27, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
 27, Monadnock, Amr. monitor, from Manila.
 27, Solace, Amr. transport, from Manila.
 27, Benmohr, British str., from Antwerp.
 27, Machew, German str., from Bangkok.
 27, Preussen, German str., from Hamburg.
 27, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 27, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
 27, Goodwin, British str., from Moji.
 28, Amara, British str., from Moji.
 28, City of Bombay, British str., from Moji.
 28, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 28, Peiyang, German str., from Moji.
 28, Samoa, British str., from Moji.
 28, Szechuen, British str., from Wuhu.
 28, Wittenburg, German str., from Kobe.
 28, Singan, British str., from Canton.
 28, Albany, Amr. cruiser, from Cavite.
 28, Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 28, Phra C. Klao, British str., from Bangkok.
 28, Choyang, British str., from Shanghai.
 28, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 28, Hinsang, British str., from Java.

December— DEPARTURES.

22, Clyde, British str., for Europe.
 22, Sumner, American transport, for Taku.
 22, Hoihao, French str., for Pakhoi.
 22, Shantung, British str., for Sourabaya.
 22, Carlisle City, Brit. str., for S. Francisco.
 22, Hailoong, British str., for Haiphong.
 22, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 22, Kutsang, British str., for Singapore.
 22, Apcar Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 22, Kinshu Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
 22, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 23, Chinkiang, British str., for Shanghai.
 22, Lizard, British gunboat, for Canton.
 23, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
 23, Sabine Bickmers, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 23, Marie Jebson, German str., for Saigon.
 22, Sambia, German str., for Yokohama.
 23, Verona, German str., for Singapore.
 23, Chas. Rogier, Belg. str., for Vladivostok.
 23, Taijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 23, Hikosan Maru, Jap. str., for Kutchinotzu.
 23, Tiger, Norw. str., for Kutchinotzu.
 23, Siam, British str., for Swatow.
 24, Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
 24, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 25, Amigo, German str., for Haiphong.
 25, Calchas, British str., for London.
 25, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 25, Knagawa Maru, Jap. str., for Nagasaki.
 26, Anping Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 26, Tritos, German str., for Hongay.
 26, Kweiyang, British str., for Amoy.
 26, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 26, Ujina, British str., for Calcutta.
 26, Carthage, British hospital str., for W'wei.
 26, Podbielski, Ger. str., for Singapore.
 26, Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
 26, Manche, French str., for Shanghai.
 26, Loksang, British str., for Bangkok.
 26, Sarpedon, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Daybreak, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Java, British str., for Shanghai.
 26, Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
 26, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 26, Chihli, British str., for Canton.
 26, Aragonia, German str., for Singapore.
 26, Elise, German str., for Shanghai.
 27, Bonclutha, British str., for Canton.
 27, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 27, Glenartney, British str., for London.
 27, Glenfallloch, British str., for Swatow.
 27, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
 27, Wuhu, British str., for Shanghai.
 27, Hating, French str., for Haiphong.
 27, Sherard Osborn, British str., for S'poro.
 28, China, Amr. str., for San Francisco.
 28, Shinano Maru, Japanese str., for London.
 28, Benlarig, British str., for Nagasaki.
 23, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 28, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 28, Victoria, British str., for Tacoma.
 28, Diamante, British str., for Manila.
 28, Benmohr, British str., for Kioochau.
 28, Tsurugisawa Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.
 28, Rosetta Maru, Jap. str., for Sydney.
 28, Freiburg, German str., for Yokohama.
 28, Decima, German str., for Saigon.

28, Cassius, German str., for Moji.
 28, Mongkut, German str., for Bangkok.
 28, Elsa, German str., for Moji.
 28, Gisela, Austrian str., for Bombay.
 28, Marie Valerie, Austrian str., for Y'hama.
 28, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Esmeralda*, from Manila, Messrs. Collins, Howel, Olarette, Blorotzky, Captain Cobban, Ong Chai Sang.

Per *Formosa*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. H. P. White.

Per *Gisela*, from Kobe, Mr. W. Pucher, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Ohly, child and infant.

Per *Kanagawa Maru*, from Singapore, Mr. Nobbs, Mr. Clark, Miss Alger.

Per *Maria Valerie*, from Trieste, Messrs. Imhoff and Honsell.

Per *Chusan*, for Hongkong, from London, Messrs. L. N. Baies, B. Nunn, Spurr, Carr, R. J. Mackenzie, E. O'Sullivan, and Miss Howard Murphy; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Monro; from Aden, Mr. W. G. Worcester; from Penang, Mr. G. G. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Outram; for Shanghai, from London, Messrs. R. D. Craig, W. Forde, G. Bolt, J. Hall, H. Oliver, Geo. Bailey, W. Miller, S. Rogers, T. B. Oliver, D. Maitland, A. Hoettler, and Burnside; from Marseilles, Messrs. H. P. Bell and H. R. Kinnear, Dr. and Mrs. Duncan Main, Messrs. R. H. Percival, L. and F. Huttenbach; from Brindisi, Capt. Gagliardi; from Ismailia, Mr. A. H. Carroll; from Penang, Capt. Cunningham; from Singapore, Mr. Levy, Sergt. and Mrs. Dall and infant, Messrs. E. Dalich and J. S. Remedios.

Per *Diamante*, from Manila, Mr. B. Brooks, Mr. E. Tomas.

Per *Ujina*, from Shanghai, Lt.-Col. E. F. H. McSwiney, Capt. K. O. Burne, Mr. C. Pilkington.

Per *Yuensang*, from Manila, Consul Johnson, Messrs. E. Arnold, Kusakabe, G. Honriban and Plumblings.

Per *Wingsang*, from Shanghai, Capt. St. Croix, Capt. Kynoch, Messrs. Veitch, Young, Pairys, Bloo and Squire.

Per *Java*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. W. P. Lambert, 2nd Lieut. C. H. Dale, Major W. R. Little, Capt. H. J. Cotter, Major J. R. Wilson, Capt. F. Broadrick and E. G. Russell, 2nd Lieuts. Salmond and Campbell and Miss Simmons; from Malta, Mr. von der Pfordten and 2nd Lieut. Bennett; for Yokohama, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Beck and Madame O'Gorman.

Per *Thales*, from Swatow, Mr. Smith.

Per *Manche*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Dufay, Hapfer, Taniel, Marchand, Bougrain, Barris, Jaulus and Des-enau; from Colombo, Mrs. and Miss Godchaux; from Singapore, Messrs. C. V. Peacock, D. Beatty and H. Kenefick; from Saigon, Messrs. H. Dreyer, M. Rimaud, Jourdan, Da-Luz, Tamhon, Quentel and Delpis; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. Weber, Geoffroy, Bertos Romanos, Angelo Cattaneo, Cornic, Bernadec, Habel, Martin and Bange; from Singapore, Mr. Asaki; from Saigon, Messrs. Vanson, Teral and Richard; for Nagasaki, from Marseilles, Messrs. E. Mandraston, Jacoubaroski, Gladky, Krachininovsky, Nosovitch, Ninogrosky, Rodellec du Bornic, Le Brozec, Heritier, Penfentengo de Kervegrins, Chourade and Jean des Orineaur; from Port Said, Mr. Platon; from Singapore, Mr. Ed. Levy; from Saigon, Messrs. M. Mottet and Beven; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Messrs. H. Sato, H. Torokoula, Yukio Itchikawa, Harugon Oika, Melland and Dodin; from Saigon, Mr. Remoule.

Per *Chelydra*, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs. Meakin and Mr. Wolverston.

Per *Taisang*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy and child and Major Walker; from Swatow, Messrs. Stockwell and Moon.

Per *Empress of China*, from Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. Misses (2) Dorr, Mr. L. A. Line and Dr. J. Donelan; from Yokohama, Mr. F. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Hardcastle, Mr. Pinckard, Prof. and Mrs. E. H. Sharp and Capt. T. A. Marshall; from Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Smith, Messrs. B. M. and B. W. Smith, Miss Robinson, Mr. W. Launder, Mr. and Miss Knight, Miss Franklin, Mr. H. B. Darnell,

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Tomkins, Lieut. F. W. Alstactter, Nagasaki, Bishop Corfe and Dr. M. H. from Shanghai, Messrs. F. Ackermann, M. Sanford, Rosenthal, E. M. Cohen, S. Moosa, J. Cooper and Gaskin.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. A. Forrest, Messrs. M. F. Loewenstein, J. A. Main-gay, A. B. Switzer, C. L. Wong, C. H. Scott, C. B. Moss, Capt. O. W. Farenholt, U.S.N., Messrs. P. H. R. Goedkoop and B. T. Horsey, Rev. and Mrs. G. L. Gelwick, Mr. J. Pichel, Capt. Rolland, R.A., Rev. and Mrs. F. F. Field, Capt. A. Kolls and Mr. B. Cameron.

Per *Preussen*, for Hongkong, from Hamburg, Messrs. A. Maack, Spiess, Walbaum, Giradone, Merz, Sigl, Knarr, Wernicke and Fleischer; from Southampton, Messrs. A. Ross, Stanley Teape, Mrs. M. Beer, Mrs. S. John and children; from Genoa, Messrs. H. Schumacher and G. E. Cole; from Singapore, Messrs. F. H. Grant, H. Toden and G. Muir; for Shanghai, from Hamburg, Mrs. and Miss Pantel, Mrs. and Miss Dienst, Mrs. H. Nielsen and child, Messrs. Sunkel Brann, Schandin, Heckmann, Freihoff Harn; from Southampton, Miss Forrester, Miss Johnston, Mrs. J. Burns and children; from Genoa, Messrs. G. Sierich, Wisselink, Peters, P. Borkowsky, B. Kobolt, Fischer, Wölker, Schafer, Keine, Wenning, Weinbrenner, Krebs, Schleifer, Mangel, Hartmann, P. Nathan, H. Geacke, Baner, Mehle, Jordan, Schulz, Werner, Muller, Kunde, Haase and Libisch; from Singapore, Messrs. W. Schoon, J. Jelison and S. Jøgdjoglan; for Nagasaki, from Genoa, Messrs. R. Cardes and A. Kirschner; for Kobe, from Genoa, Dr. T. Endo; for Yokohama, from Genoa, Messrs. J. Sobotka, L. Rosen and Hirschheimer; from Port Said, Mr. J. Viscus; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Terry.

DEPARTED.

Per *Yawata Maru*, for Japan, Mr. S. Ransome, Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Taylor and child, Messrs. A. J. Protheroe, K. Sugimoto, Muney-suye, and Mrs. Ume Kawai.

Per *Clyde*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. Moller, H. H. Gompertz, E. Benck, A. W. Newton; for Penang, Mr. F. Duberley, Miss Duberley, Mr. and Mrs. Denby; for Calcutta, Mr. J. Robinson; for Ismailia, Mr. L. L. Colver, Mrs. A. W. R. Roberts, Mrs. and Miss Folger, Mr. Hans Heintze; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Keil, Major J. O. Hutchinson, Major and Mrs. Pearce, Messrs. J. Dionosotti Casalone and L. Wright; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. R. Ramsay, Mr. F. Weiss; for London, Miss Jean H. Tucker, Mr. W. Graham, Mrs. Susan J. Austin, Comdr. James N. Hill, R.N., Mr. F. R. Goodwin, R.N., Lieut. S. Newcome, Dr. and Mrs. F. R. Day; from Shanghai, for Singapore, Mr. W. Otten; for Colombo, Dr. Rawson, Mrs. and Miss Rawson; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Polhill and children and Miss Drake; for London, Sub-Lieuts. H. Boyes, H. Gibbs, A. P. Tillard and E. P. Pope, Messrs. A. F. St. C. Armitage and Melville.

Per *Kinshin Maru*, for Shanghai, Mr. J. Yoshida, Miss U. Mori and Mr. C. B. Morton.

Per *Loongsang*, for Manila, Miss Campbell, Miss M. Murphy, Mr. W. Klose, Mrs. T. T. Thornburgh, Mrs. R. M. Thornburgh, Master Thos. T. Thornburgh, Mrs. H. L. Jewett, Miss M. Crozier, Messrs. C. L. Harding, F. B. Talbot, S. W. Lewis, A. G. Center, F. S. Clarke, M. C. Emerson, E. C. Tobey, Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Seely and Mr. C. I. Bates.

Per *Loongmoon*, for Shanghai, Messrs. Howes and Arthur Ehrlich.

Per *Chusan*, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Mr. J. V. Remedios, Miss Alger and Mr. J. D. Clark; from Penang, Capt. Cunningham; from Brindisi, Capt. Gagliardi; from Marseilles, Mr. H. F. Bell, Dr. and Mrs. Duncan Main; from London, Messrs. R. D. Craig, W. Forde, J. Hall, Geo. Bailey, Wm. Miller, S. Rogers, D. Maitland, A. Hoettler, and Burnside.

Per *Esmeralda*, for Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Hazakawa, Mr. and Mrs. Mitsun, Messrs. José Vidal, A. C. Johnson, Richardson, Mrs. Otoo, Messrs. E. V. Nelson, John Simpson.

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